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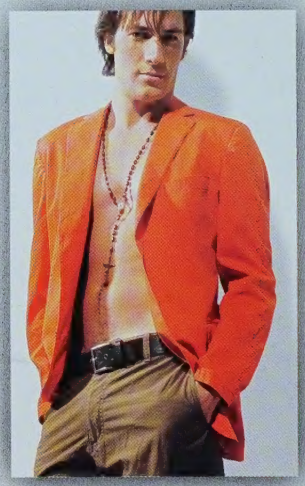

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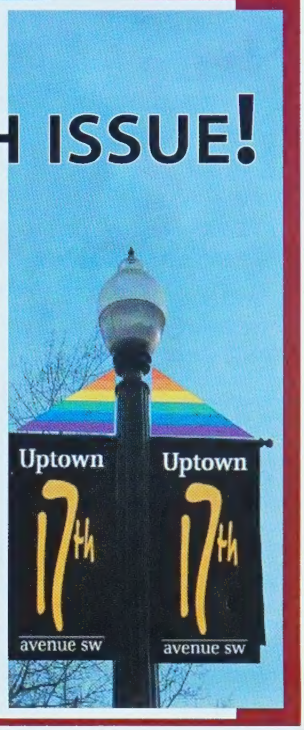

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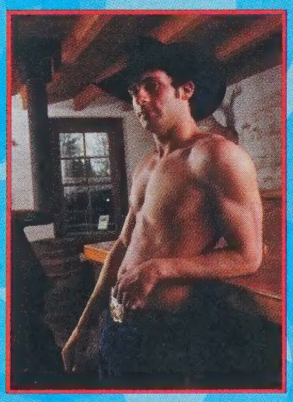

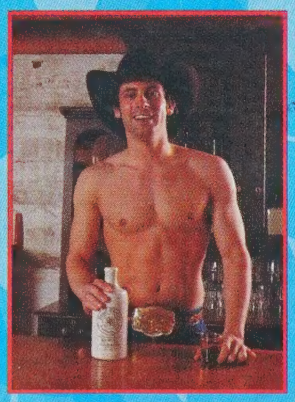

On The Cover:
*Cameron shot on location in Drew's Saloon at Calgary's Heritage Park. Photo by by Terence Leung. Special thanks to Danielle Herbison and the folks at Heritage Park (**www.heritagepark.ca**) and Shoulder to Shoulder vintage shop in Inglewood.*

what's where June 2005

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A REASON TO SING

The Edmonton Vocal Minority chorus, now in its twelfth season, has made a name for itself as one of the city's premier arts groups. Add to that a special guest appearance by Seattle-based Derivative Duo (pictured left) and their June 23 performance, *One World, Many Voices*, has all the makings of a blockbuster event. David King has more...

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QUEEN'S MARGARET

She's always been a fave of the gay community—now funny lady Margaret Cho has scored herself a very *straight* admirer: her husband. Lino DiNallo chats the grand diva up about her hub, quilting, dictators, and all the other great things that make her tick.

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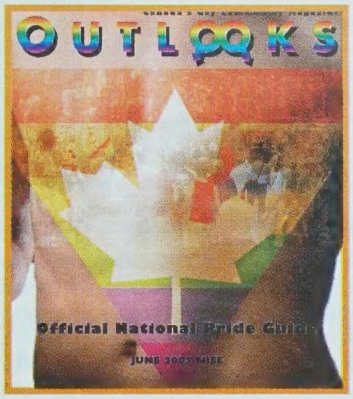
GIDDYUP AND GO!

Warm weather and restless energy can only mean two things: summer is here and the annual Canadian Rockies International Rodeo is on the horizon. Want to know more about this perennial favourite? Read on...



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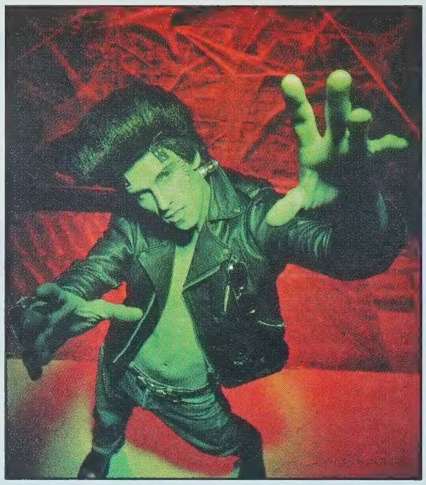
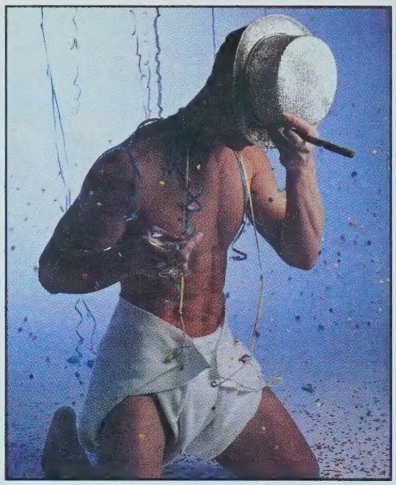
PLOTTING OUT YOUR PRIDE

Once again, *Outlooks* delivers the 411 with its official National Pride Guide, your key to the many diverse and fabulous festivities that take place from coast to coast.

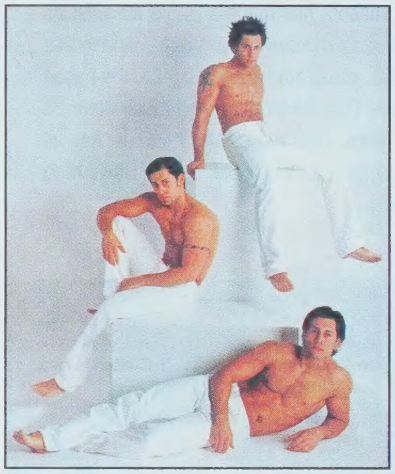
FOCUS



October 2001; shot by Simon Burroughs



January 1998; shot by Jason Sawatsky

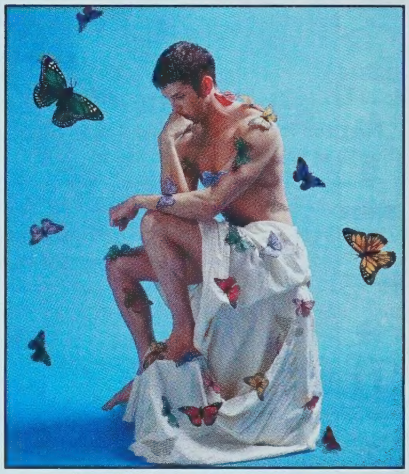


March 2000; shot by Simon Burroughs

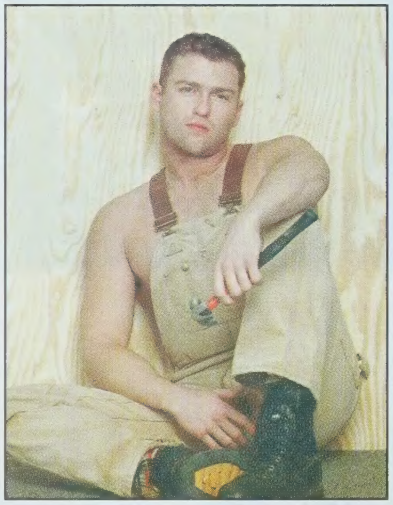
In this installment of Focus we share a selection of some favourite photos—both ours and those of our readers—and salute the very talented photographers who made them happen.

January 2004; shot by Graham Major

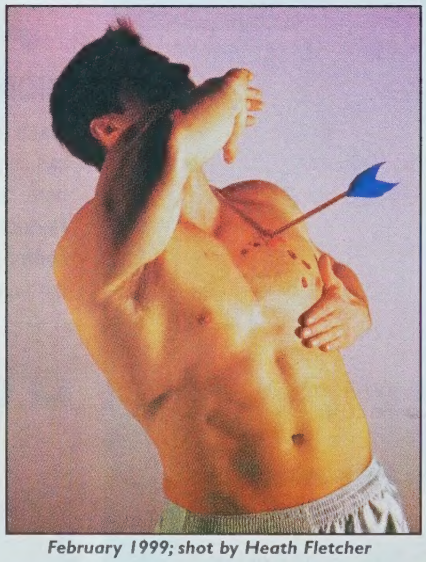
December 1999; shot by Heath Fletcher



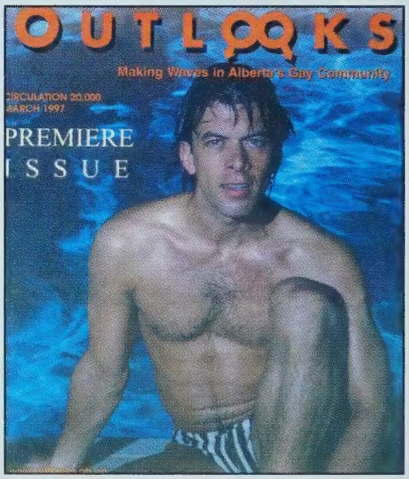
April 2002; shot by Dan Kozma



May 2003; shot by Patricio del Rio



February 1999; shot by Heath Fletcher

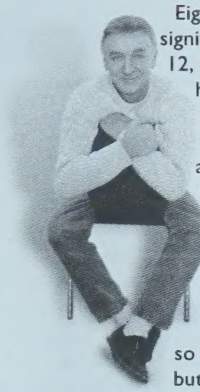


March 1997; shot by Graham Major

OUTLOOKS is proud to bring you this regular showcase of photographic talent in Canada's GLBT community. If you would like your work considered for this feature please submit samples to main@outlooks.ca

The *Outlooks* story

By Roy Heale



Eight years and four months doesn't really seem like a very significant stretch of time until you do the math and multiply 8 X 12, then add 4 to end up with 100 as the total. We're about to hit a major point in *Outlooks*' history and here it almost snuck up on me—I realized on our 8th anniversary that, counting from March 1997 through June 2005, our 100th edition was almost upon us. Stranger still, it seems like just yesterday we were preparing the release of our debut issue! As the time approached I knew that we would have to plan a special souvenir edition, and decided that a retrospective of our past issues would be appropriate for this publishing milestone.

Reaching this point in our history, I realize that there are so many 'thank yous' due to so many people. Without contributions from a diverse range of individuals, community groups, gay and gay-friendly businesses, not to mention the support of the Canada Magazine Fund, we might not still be publishing today.

First and foremost, I would like to thank my sister Daphne. This may seem a little strange at first, even though she is the most gay-friendly person you could ever wish to meet. However, this Canada Day we will celebrate the passage of ten years since she was suffering on dialysis and I was privileged enough to be able to donate my left kidney to her in order to improve the quality of her life and extend her life expectancy. This gift probably ended up meaning more to *me* than it did to her: even though it instantly changed her life for the better, it also changed mine over the course of the eighteen months that followed. As a gay man, being able to give the gift of life is somewhat rare, and I felt like a father watching his daughter being born. At that point, the experience made me realize that my twenty-something years as an advertising and PR consultant, as well as all financial benefits I had reaped, should be invested in a more meaningful future. I realized that, instead of just my SuperMarketing clients benefiting from my expertise, perhaps I should be doing something for my own community. In conversations with good friends and associates a plan was developed for the creation of *Outlooks*.

Outlooks *Co-founders Doug McDougall and Roy Heale*

To make this collective dream a reality, it would take a strong business plan, many talented people—each with a unique area of expertise—and a great deal of money. From the start, *Outlooks* could not be a copycat publication imitating others available at the time, but rather something new and different. It had to provide an alternative to what existed already, with editorial content not available anywhere else in the late-'90s.

A talented group of gay men, including Doug McDougall, Bill Brooks, Rod Gordon, David Crosson and I, set about developing a business plan based on unique editorial concepts. Unanimously, we felt it would be important to focus on the positive aspects of a gay lifestyle, destroy the myths and stereotypes (often the subject of mainstream media editorial) and focus on who we are as individuals, employees, neighbours and friends. By destroying some of the myths about the GLBT community and removing the fear of "different" lifestyles, greater acceptance might be gained in the broader Canadian population. This has been the goal of *Outlooks* from day one and it is, perhaps, the reason why our readers—gay and straight—look forward to each and every issue when it hits the streets.

The first issue of Outlooks *rolls off the press*

"Unique", "enjoyable" and "something to make us all feel proud" are just a few of the things that have been said about the publication over the years, which makes all those involved feel very positive about the decisions made—and followed through on—over the magazine's history.

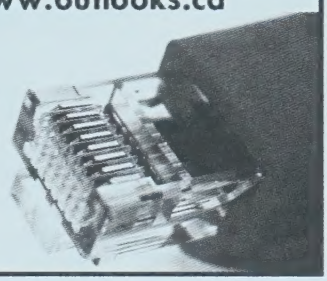
Speaking of proud, that's how I feel about every single contributor as I look back over our first 100 editions. From the very start, everyone involved has received an honourarium for their involvement in this magazine; whether they are a writer, editor, photographer, model, graphic designer, salesperson, office cleaner or they contribute in some other way, everyone's time is worthy of recognition and compensation. Each and every story and photo spread in *Outlooks* is an original piece of work that cannot be seen or read in any other GLBT publication. The only exception to this rule has been a few worthy stories purchased from select mainstream publications, which we chose to reprint based on the fact that sixty-six percent of our readers do not read daily newspapers. This ensures that *Outlooks* will always be for the community by the community, one of our most important philosophical cornerstones.

Another extremely important factor from day one was *Outlooks*' national distribution, something we felt was necessary to help tie our widespread communities together so that they might share ideas and draw inspiration from one another from coast to coast. If our annual reader surveys are any indication, it seems that most of you are in agreement and appreciate the scope of our editorial content. And, while we are not quite 'there' yet in terms of comprehensive coverage from all communities, we are working on it continuously and the numbers keep growing year after year.

Given the startling fact that most publications in Canada fall victim to a high fatality rate somewhere between their second and third year, we're particularly proud to reach this milestone of eight-plus years and 100 issues. The dire statistics are even more true for GLBT publications, which makes us even more grateful and proud of everyone who has contributed to our success, especially you, our valued readers, without whom this existence would be fruitless!

It truly is a privilege to dream a dream, receive the support to make that dream a reality and watch that dream fulfilled in so many ways. Thank you to everyone involved in our first 100 issues; whether you are a contributor or a reader, your support is never taken for granted and we look forward to our collective future together. Thank you for allowing our dream to be your reality. I wish a very happy Pride 2005 to everyone from coast to coast.

Plug in.
www.outlooks.ca



OUTLOOKS

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Canada

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"Blame" it on Belinda

By John Coulbourn

We were going to write about our 100th issue or about Pride—but we didn't and it's not our fault.

It's Belinda's—and that's not all she's done.

After running through everybody from the thick-headed central Canadian voter to a media with a liberal bias to Liberal fear-mongering, Conservatives can now lay the blame for their accumulated years in political exile squarely at the well-shod tootsies of the latest Benedictine Arnold, Belinda Stronach.

It was, after all, Stronach who recently defected to the Liberal Party and thereby allowed the minority Liberal government of Paul Martin to live to fight another day. *Ipso facto*, everything is now entirely Stronach's fault, including the fact that the majority of Canadians refuse to succumb to the questionable charms of Stephen Harper and his band of merry miscreants.

(Yeah, yeah. We all know the lovely Belinda was booed by a lot of straight shooters at the Conservative policy convention in Montréal when she stood up to plead for a more inclusive party. And we also know that, just days before her defection, she had Harper viciously gnawing at the posterior portion of her designer lingerie for publicly questioning his dismissal of a budget he ended up supporting anyway. But hey, we are only allowed to notice MPs being forced to tow the party line if they happen to be Liberal.)

What's important is that this is now all Belinda's fault and, barring another high profile defection—as if the Liberal Party needs another flaccid Peter in its midst—it will continue to be her fault, right up until the time that the collective Conservative Party finally comes face to face with a mirror.

Only then are they likely to catch a glimpse of who it is that is keeping them from power.

Face it. You'd have to be dead or living in the last century not to know that the Liberal party is riddled with corruption—and it says volumes, I think, that the majority of Canadians are still prepared to support them over a government led by Stephen Harper.

I mean, there are even a lot of people in the gay and lesbian community who would just as soon *not* vote Liberal, particularly given Martin's penchant for holding his nose and all but gagging every time the issue of same-sex marriage comes up.

Truth is, we'd far rather vote for somebody who was backing us because it was the right thing to do and not simply because he has no other choice. But, frankly, what is the alternative for us and for a lot of reasonable Canadians who are pretty well schooled at looking beyond the rhetoric?

While there is much bleating in the media of late about fear-mongering on the part of Martin and the Liberal Party, the truth of the matter is that the new Conservative party is just about as scary as the old Reform party—even more so, now that Stronach has made her departure.

The bottom line finally is that Harper has done nothing to relieve his party of the Cro Magnon element, contenting himself instead with simply muzzling it.

So now, he may be speaking on their behalf, but if you listen really carefully the message is still the same.

For instance, Harper and his cronies insist they are not homophobes, that they oppose same-sex marriage mainly because it must inevitably lead to polygamy. Fine, but if that is in fact their fear, one can't help but wonder why, at the very least, every card-carrying, right-thinking Conservative isn't screaming for the closure of every gay bar in Bountiful, British Columbia, before we perverts lead those poor fundamentalist Mormon rebels (who have been practicing polygamy for sixty years and are by now pretty damn good at it, one suspects) even further astray.

So far, however, not a peep—because Harper and his cronies oppose same-sex marriage simply because they are a nest of rank homophobes, disclaimers to the contrary.

The fact of the matter is, there are a lot of thoughtful Canadians, gay and straight, who are looking frantically for a reasonable alternative to the Liberal party.

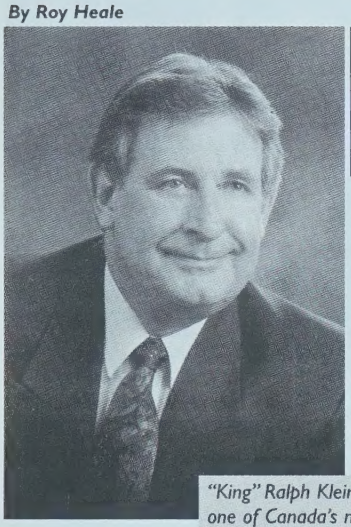
And just to keep at least the record straight, we rejected Harper and the Conservatives *long* before Belinda did.

Happy 100th issue—and happy Pride. ▼

John Coulbourn is a native Albertan who lived for many years in Calgary. He now makes his home in Toronto, where he covers performing arts for the Toronto Sun.

Klein time

By Roy Heale



"King" Ralph Klein, one of Canada's most "colourful" politicians

LOOKING BACK

Reprinted from August 1998

Since *Outlooks*' inception eighteen months ago, we have worked continuously to bring our readers exclusive interviews with community leaders, celebrities, entertainers and politicians in the hopes that these endeavors will bring about a greater understanding of gays, lesbians and bisexuals. Since our first issue, a number of requests have been made to Premier Klein's office for an interview with our provincial chief executive. However, we were told it would have been politically incorrect for the premier to discuss the Delwin Vriend case whilst it was still before the courts. We were always assured that Klein would answer our questions subsequent to the Supreme Court ruling. In this issue, we are pleased to give you Premier Klein's written responses to some, but not all, of our questions. Only in a perfect world do you find answers to all your questions and, in this instance, we're grateful for the premier's time and his acknowledgment that the gay media is worthy of some attention.

Outlooks: In your political career to date, was the Delwin Vriend case one of the more difficult moments?

Klein: Yes. It was one of the most difficult issues I and my caucus have ever had to deal with.

Outlooks: You took a personal stand at great political risk and showed leadership as the premier on this issue. In hindsight, do have any regrets?

Klein: No. We did the right thing. It was a tough decision and, as with all tough decisions, there may be a political price to pay. That's reality. I'm still convinced our government did the right thing.

Outlooks: With respect to the Delwin Vriend case, why did you take a stand on the use of the "notwithstanding" clause the day before the caucus meeting?

Klein: My view has always been that we should accept the Supreme Court decision on Vriend, but that we would need a full discussion of the decision in caucus. My stand was also that, if caucus wanted to use the "notwithstanding" clause, we would have to consult with Albertans first through some sort of public consultation mechanism. In fact, if our government ever considers using the "notwithstanding" clause for any reason, we will consult with Albertans first.

Outlooks: How did the lobbying by religious and family groups versus the gay and lesbian community affect your personal stand on this issue?

Klein: My stand did not change as a result of the lobbying. But some of the hateful faxes and phone calls that we received—some of the stuff we received was appalling—reaffirmed for me that accepting the Supreme Court decision was the right thing to do.

Outlooks: What are your personal views—as opposed to political views—with regard to homosexuality?

Klein: I think it's wrong to deny somebody a job or accommodation because of their sexual orientation. What consenting adults do in private is their concern.

Outlooks: What was the turning point in those six days subsequent to the Supreme Court ruling that led to your personal stand?

Klein: I've always been of the personal view that we should accept the Supreme Court ruling on Vriend, whatever that decision was. I did not change my view after the Supreme Court ruling.

Outlooks: What would your personal reaction be if a member of your family or a good friend told you he or she was gay?

Klein: It wouldn't change how I felt about them. In fact, I would appreciate their honesty. What matters most to me is whether or not somebody is a good person. Are they hard-working? Honest? Sincere? Responsible? Are they good and decent human beings? Those are the important things.

Outlooks: How do you feel about the rest of Canada looking upon Alberta as a redneck bastion?

Klein: It depends what you mean by "redneck". If you mean that Albertans are hard-working, commonsense, independent and self-reliant people, then I have no problem. But if by "redneck" you mean bigoted or narrow minded, then I disagree completely. Albertans are among the most generous, kind, tolerant and compassionate people I know.

Ralph in "official" mode

Outlooks: Throughout your political career, in municipal and provincial politics, many gays and lesbians have worked on your election campaigns. Do you feel that you have represented them equally?

Klein: I wouldn't be where I am today if it wasn't for the support and help of many, many supporters and volunteers. I've always tried to live up to the expectations of my supporters and tried as hard as I can to represent and carry out the wishes of all Albertans, regardless of their sexual orientation.

Outlooks: In the next provincial election, why should the gay and lesbian population vote for Conservative Party candidates?

Klein: Everyone, not just gay and lesbian people, should vote for the candidate that best represents their views. Our party stands for good government and a strong economy. That means balanced budgets, paying down debt, keeping taxes low, looking for more effective and efficient ways of doing things, especially in education and health. And it also means being accountable—letting the people know what we're doing and why. So if you believe in our vision of good government, you should consider voting for a PC candidate. ▼

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Diverse city: policing a community of individuals

By Bill Brooks

LOOKING BACK

Excerpts from the November 1997 interview

Christine Silverberg's groundbreaking Outlooks *cover*

One of only a handful of female police chiefs in North America, Christine Silverberg has, in her two short years as Chief of Police of the Calgary Police Service, smashed the mold of conventional police thinking. Extremely articulate, she speaks her mind and has ruffled a few of the old guards' feathers. She is drop-dead glamorous, approachable, fiercely dedicated and has a keen sense of self. And who can forget her impromptu and impassioned speech at Calgary Cares this past summer when she spoke of the need to understand and accept those who are different? In an exclusive interview, *Outlooks* spoke with The Chief in her office.

Outlooks: You are perceived in Calgary to be very gay friendly. Expand on that.

Silverberg: I guess I would recast it in a different way. I believe that we are all, I suppose, a product of our experiences. I have been in policing for over twenty-five years now and when I joined policing there simply were no women around. Even today, in Canada, women account for only eight percent of the police force. Obviously, therefore, I was always different. I remember very early on—and the reason I am telling you this is because it helps to focus on what my issues are in terms of valuing diversity—when I was a recruit and I was sitting at the Ontario Police College and I walked into the dining hall, literally hundreds of male police officers stopped eating and turned around to stare. Not long after that, I remember thinking to myself that, if I ever had to change who I was, I would leave the business. It became something that was very important to me as time went on: that I did not have to, nor did I want to, change who I was or my basic value structure to accommodate or adapt to this massive institution called policing.

When I look back—I think at the time I was about twenty-two—I think: how could I have come to that kind of decision merely by looking around and knowing that somehow it would have been very easy to lose myself in that kind of environment? There were other things as well. When I was hired, notwithstanding that I had gone through the same training as the men, women were not issued a firearm. As each situation came along which, just by the very nature of it, somehow wasn't right; I would work to move beyond it and create change. As I rose, ultimately, through the ranks, I then believed that I was in a position to effect policy change. I have had a significant issue around the ability to be an individual and to have your work judged on the basis of performance—not a wide variety of other kinds of systemic factors. So, because I believe in individualism, when you ask me the question am I gay friendly, what I really am is a person that believes passionately in the rights of people to express their individualism and out of that we can truly talk the talk in terms of valuing diversity and not just merely make it words.

Outlooks: What are your thoughts in terms of the allegations made about gay bashing and that the City of Calgary Police Service are doing little to combat this?

Silverberg: First of all, I believe that hate-biased crime in the first place is underreported. I think it is naive of us all to believe that, in a city that is becoming increasingly diverse, that we would not encounter situations of hate-biased crime—whether it's manifested against gays, racial minorities, aboriginal people and so on. Because of that concern, not long after I was here, I initiated a project to look at how it was we were capturing, if at all, incidents of hate-biased crime. This took a significant amount of work, actually, because our databases in this business focus on the effects so that we count, if you will, assault as an assault; we count robbery as a robbery, and so on. We can't capture it by motivation.

Community interaction was always one of the Chief's strong points

Through the course of quite a long period of time, two things were done. One was that we developed the data collection methodology and implemented it within our system. We are now able to identify if there was a hate-biased motive, to capture that and then to look at those cases to see if it actually was or wasn't and so on. Along with that there was a significant amount of work that had to be done in terms of developing a hate-biased protocol. All of these things are now in place, so it is possible to identify whether or not we have incidents that would actually be called "gay bashing". My recollection is—I have seen the first three month's data—some of those were incidents involving gays but not to the degree that other crimes of hate bias were manifested. I think those of us who have worked in institutions or have been in situations where we are the minority, have become very good at reading and sensing the more covert actions. Sometimes it's overt. What is really of concern to me, aside from the criminal aspect, is how we deal with the education of people, generally, to value diversity. It's the covert, the hidden, that is often of greater concern—it's like the tip of the iceberg. The only way to effect change, I believe, is to effect cultural change.

Outlooks: Your thought processes, I would suggest, are very "elevated" and, for lack of a better phrase, somewhat "new age". I would imagine you are rather rare in the context of a police force.

Silverberg: This is an organization of some 1,700 people. The trouble is that change does not occur in one fell swoop overnight. All of humanity doesn't suddenly wake up enlightened. When I came here, people used to say to me things like "You're not what we expected—you don't even *look* like a chief" and so on. People assumed that the first thing I would do would be to start activating around these issues of women, diversity and so on. I did not approach it that way. When I went out to the field and talked to officers, and even today when I talk to them, the way I position it really is, "What kind of place do you want to work in?" Most say "I want to work in a place that values me, listens to me, understands the problems I have" and so on. This is what we *all* want from our work. I believe very much that what we have to do is set about creating an environment where all people can feel that way. And, as I say, this doesn't happen overnight; then all people, whether gay or not, will feel an empowered advantage. This is not an easy thing and it doesn't just happen because I yell out my office door, "We are now an enlightened organization." It happens because you start building the blocks on the creation of a positive work environment, a policy of taking seriously the

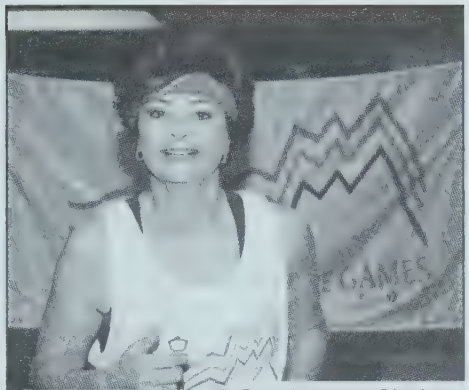
Addressing the crowd at "Rope Square" in Olympic Plaza during the 1997 World Police/Fire Games

continued opposite

from previous

complaints and the concerns people have of effecting change within human resource systems. Since I have been here, I know that is happening within some quarters of the organization. I have people who have come to tell me about the reality of their experience. Now, does the person on the front line who may be gay feel that change at this stage in 1997? Perhaps not.

Outlooks: Do you think the gay community feels comfortable with its police service?



Geared up to go: Silverberg "in action" at the 1997 World Police/Fire Games

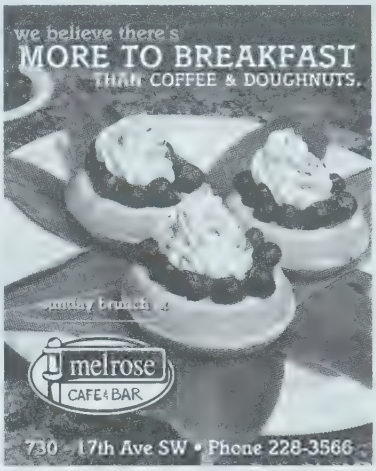
Silverberg: In March of 1996, we developed The Calgary Gay and Lesbian Community/Police Liaison. The goal of this committee was to develop an effective two-way communication between the gay/lesbian community and the police; to foster education and awareness; to identify and resolve crime and safety concerns; and to increase police awareness specific to the issues of the gay and lesbian communities. Also, for the first time in our city's 110 year history, the committee has completed in-service workshops regarding information on gay/lesbian issues to all our school safety officers, school resource officers, our civilian employees and classes of recruits. Our crime prevention unit has offered to do a study on any of the bars or other establishments frequented by the gay community so that we can address some of the safety issues in an effort to reduce the incidents of assaults; for example, in parking lots. The committee has also been consulted by our district personnel to assist in dealing with the overt gay sexual activity in and around the zoo parking lot. There is then, even internally, a view that the committee is a group worth consulting before embarking on any strategy. This is a good thing.

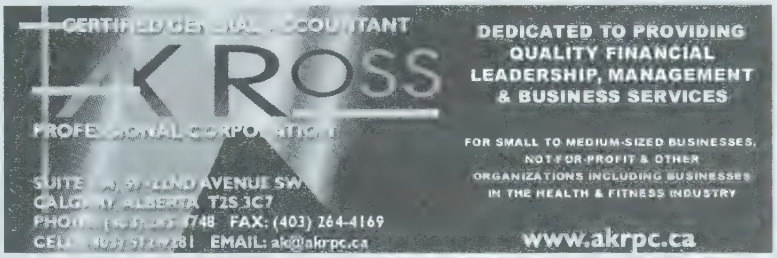
Outlooks: What has been the high point of your career, or, phrased differently, what has given you the most amount of joy?

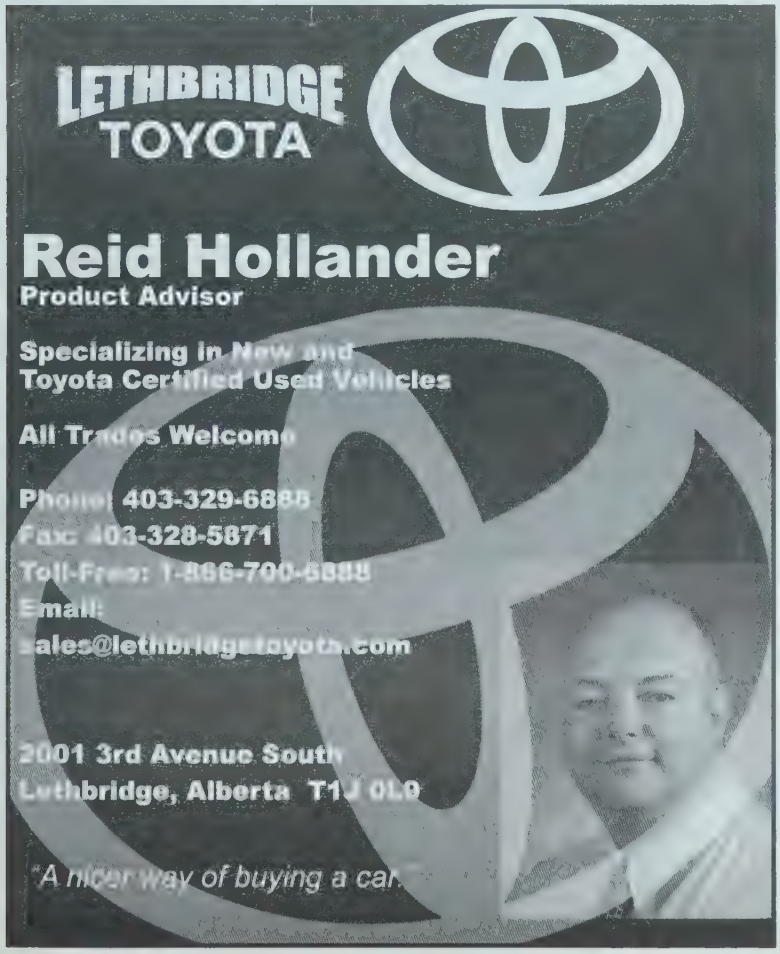
Silverberg: My greatest amount of joy comes from my children. In terms of my time in Calgary, I think that the most significant thing for me is the fact that the Calgary community has a staggering percentage of volunteerism. Any police agency has to work with the support of, and commitment to, community. The fact that this is here in Calgary is a wonderful thing. Calgary ought to be rightfully proud of that. The extent to which I, as Chief of Police *and* Christine Silverberg, have been embraced by Calgarians brings a tremendous amount of joy because it makes it easier to do what, on any account, can be called a really tough job.

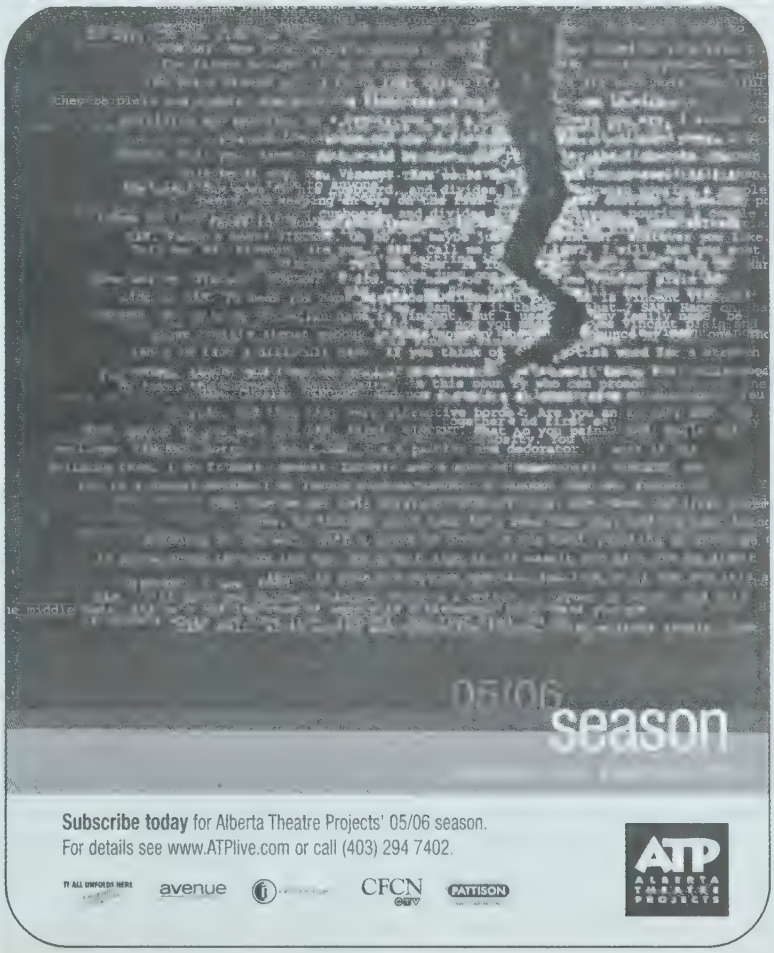
Outlooks: Where would you like to be in five years?

Silverberg: I hope I am the Chief of the Calgary Police Service. The community needs to, I suppose, give me a sense of that. Am I doing a good job? Are there things I should be doing that I haven't been? What do you like about what I am doing? What don't you like about what I am doing? And so on. If the Calgary community wants me as Chief of Police, then it provides the motivation to stay on. I hope that my focus in the past two years has been correct and, if that is the case, then I would love to carry on. My biggest hope is that whatever I have done has taken the service far enough to not turn back. ▼









Quaking the foundations

By David King

LOOKING BACK

Reprinted from November 2003

Recently, while attending a Lutheran mass one Sunday to conduct its choir, a spiritual friend of mine couldn't help but feel awkward when the service ended with more than the usual church business. A woman stood and asked the assembly to join her in signing the Canadian Alliance's petition to maintain the traditional definition of marriage as 'man and woman'. Awkwardly enough, this conductor managed to carry on with his own worship and the choir before him. Yet, as he later mentioned, he felt increasingly uncomfortable at churches of several denominations during his musical visits, each being petitioned systematically by church-going, political party representatives.

The whole thing's got me thinkin'. It harkens back to the good ol' days, when important business was carried straight down to ye olde town hall or, dagnabbit, the church assembly.

Times *have* changed. After a summer of intense debate over same-sex marriage in Canada's increasingly right-left think-tank, it seems more hypocritical than ever that the fear of a "gay agenda" can be mongered further by political parties who pass around the campaign hat in a place of worship.

Forgive me for the lack of objective journalism, but can't we all just pray in peace? It's doubtful queers will be signing up to be a Jehovah's Witness at a cruising bar, though both sides of the coin equally disturb the thinly veiled intolerance that's been rising to the surface of late.

Which brings me to the great debate: the case of Ceremony vs. Civility, Tradition vs. Equality. 2003 has been a year of everything from "Let's talk about it some more first" to "I'm sick to death of talking about it". Many can agree a union of any kind is a fulfilling and enriching experience—a commitment that carries a weight of responsibility worth bargaining for. Yet it's the invasion of spirituality that leaves worship-dedicated Canadians (queer and straight) without a voice in the debate.

As I pay tribute to my spiritually-focused GLBT friends of all religions, I can't help but pray in my own meagre way for their right to worship, including the exchange of vows. It's saddening to shop around in one's mind for a church (as if it were a caterer) that will marry you, but easier to grasp in the context of equal rights to views of the Church. Alas, after a little "shopping" for info, I stumbled upon a group of same-sex marriage supporters I knew little about—the Quakers.

"People speculate about what one thing Quakers believe, yet it's pretty wide open," says Merrill Stewart, the current clerk of Edmonton's Quaker meetings.

As Stewart points out, Quakers come from all backgrounds and denominations. Individual meetings vary internationally, as do viewpoints on same-sex marriage. Stewart mentions same-sex marriage is more of a hot button for "friends" in the U.S.

"The idea of meetings is that the organization moves as a whole together," says Stewart. "One person with a contrary view has the ability to grind the whole thing to a halt."

The August release of minutes from the annual Canadian Quaker meeting re-affirm Quaker forefather George Fox's beliefs that marriage is "God's ordinance and not Man's". As Stewart points out, the minutes serve as a more united testimonial on the Canadian Quaker's support for same-sex marriage, with a public position that "Love makes a family".

Indeed, as fundamentalist prayer for traditional marriage took place outside Edmonton's Legislature building only recently, a few Quakers arrived unafraid to counter those views. It's a role not necessarily unusual in Quaker history.

"The whole area of theology and pacifism has been an important one over time," Stewart comments. "Tolerance and equality has really put them at the forefront."

Visibility aside, the Quakers remain a religious society many of us know little about. As Stewart describes, Quakerism arrived in Canada with United Empire Loyalists after the American Revolution. In more recent times (i.e. the McCarthy Era and the Vietnam War), several American Quakers also re-routed to Canada because of their pacifist views. Although Stewart administers to a small meeting of approximately thirty to thirty-five Friends in Edmonton, a much heavier concentration of Quakers rests in Canada's larger metropolitan centres.

In Quaker tradition, a silent workshop is often held weekly for unmediated and silent worship known widely as "divine waiting". Admittance to weekly meetings is held at monthly meetings and, as Stewart explains, couples straight and gay are usually in attendance for some time before a marriage ceremony takes place.

"The authority comes from the meeting itself," Stewart explains. "If two people walked in off the street and wanted to marry, it likely wouldn't happen. But two people within the group that wanted to formalize their relationship would likely be considered."

Stewart outlines a standard ceremony. Couples attend the meeting as they would normally, often arranged in a circle. After a period of silence, the couple enters and sits, and after a moment of silence, stand and exchange vows. Others may stand and offer good wishes or advice. While everyone signs the marriage certificate, one official registrar is present for the 'civil' stamp of approval.

"A same-sex couple wouldn't be given any more merit than anyone else," says Stewart. "Getting married means getting married by the whole meeting."

As with the good ol' days, the order of business is not forgotten at Quaker meetings, and while individual values take second place to the more unified position of its assembly, acceptance for same-sex marriage isn't always apparent. Yet as far as "shopping around" goes, it's one traditional form of worship with a level of exemplary tolerance for what's most important.

"I think it's safe to say relations are assessed by knowing two people and taking them under care," says Stewart. "It's about understanding and a steadfast relationship. Taking the good and the bad. Diversity is encouraged—and judgement is discouraged." ▼

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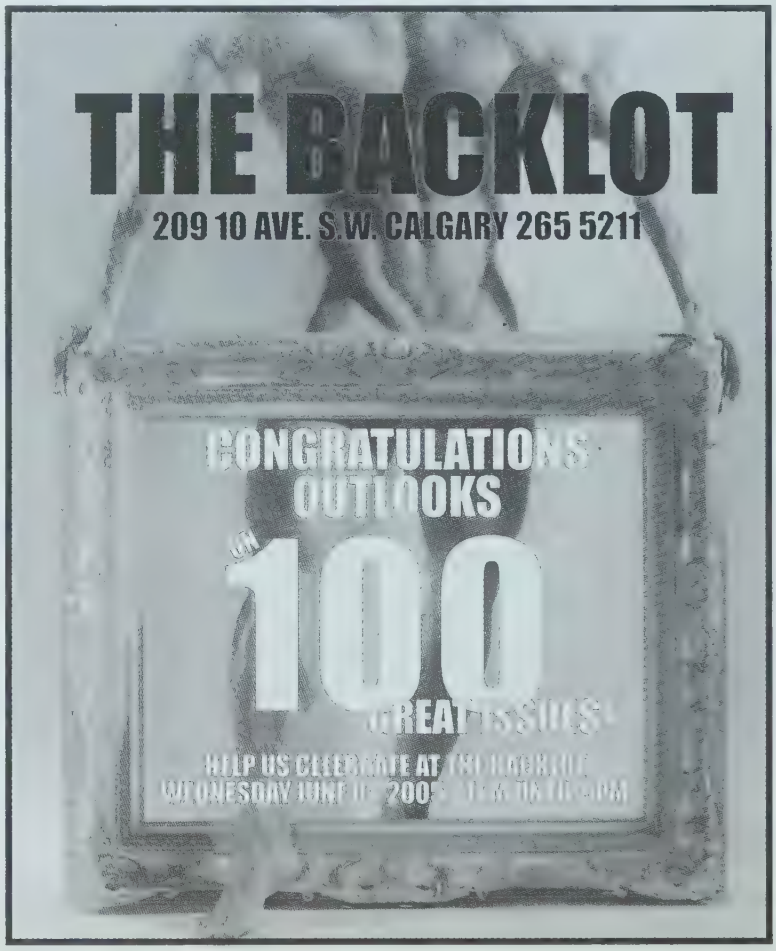


3-D dick

By Steven Schelling

Whoever said that good things come in small packages was definitely *not* a gay man. While less is often more, the laws of fashion and design seem to fall short, quite literally, in the boudoir. In a world where boys will be boys with other boys, bigger, while not always better, is at least preferred. An informal and horribly unscientific poll conducted by yours truly at a local bar on a Saturday night confirmed my suspicions: inside of every gay man is a size queen. Well, Your Highness, if you're afraid that your peasant is revolting or you want a little more Magna in your Carta, read on.

A Short History of a Growth Industry

The current preferred technique for penile lengthening originated in China in 1984, the idea of a certain Dr. Long (yes, his real name). An unfortunate man had his "chopstick" chomped by a chow-chow as a child and was not able to marry and perform his husbandly duties. Up pops Dr. Long with a radical new idea. The experimental operation was a success and Dr. Long's reputation grew to mirror the results of his revolutionary technique. Eventually, Dr. Robert Stubbs (his real name, too!), a Toronto plastic surgeon, heard of the new procedure and headed to China to study with Dr. Long. Unfortunately, Dr. Long spoke no English and Dr. Stubbs spoke no Cantonese, so a translator, Dr. Dong (I couldn't make this up if I *tried*), joined the team. Dr. Stubbs trained at the feet of the master, Dr. Long, while Dr. Dong facilitated the entire affair. With Long and Dong's knowledge firmly in hand, Stubbs returned to his Toronto practice and ever since Canadian men of more modest means have had the opportunity to Super Size their Happy Meal.

In order to get the big picture on penis enlargement I spoke with Dr. Donald G. Fitzpatrick, M.D., FRCSC, of the Fairview Plastic Surgery Centre in Vancouver. Dr. Fitzpatrick has been practicing plastic and reconstructive surgery for the past twenty-four years. Since 1994, he has been the only doctor in western Canada to offer cosmetic penile surgery and is, apparently along with Dr. Stubbs, one of only two surgeons trained in this procedure in the entire country. He was very pleasant to talk to and able to condense a lot of technical information into a conversational tone that even a dumb blonde like me could understand.

The Long Haul

When it comes to penile lengthening, the operation itself is relatively straightforward once you familiarize yourself with the penis. This is not to suggest that you have not clocked your share of flight time in the cockpit, but there are a few things even you might not know! Think of a penis like a skyscraper—that shouldn't be hard to do (who hasn't, right?). In order for that building to stand tall, it requires a deep foundation. A penis follows the same architectural rules as a high-rise; fully one-half of penis is internal. This internal portion of the penis is tethered to the pubic bone by a suspensory ligament. The first part of the operation severs this ligament. The surgeon will then interpose muscle tissue (gracilis, in doc talk) to prevent possible re-attachment of the ligament. Finally, he will sew you up and send you home.

To the surprise of many, this operation is classified as mere day surgery, although it is performed under general anesthesia. It seems like a relatively quick and painless exercise. It is. "The operation is the easy part," says Dr. Fitzpatrick. "During recovery is when the hassle factor really begins. For penile lengthening to work best, post-operative procedure is just as important as the operation itself." Fitzpatrick demands that his patients spend the first three days on what he calls "couch rest". During this period, he explains that they will certainly experience some discomfort. The pain, he says, stems from the interposing of the muscle tissue and not from the severed ligament. "It's like when you pull a groin muscle playing hockey," he says mildly, "only it's on both sides." Having sustained a groin injury (to only one side, mind you) in a drunkenly concocted game of "Look! I can do the splits too!" I feel that I understand to a certain degree what those first few days would be like. Unpleasant is a serious understatement. Walking normally may be impossible for the first ten or so days. Within a week most of his patients return to work; however, those with more physically demanding jobs usually wait a while longer. Sex is a no-no for the first three weeks and sports are not allowed until week six.

The Weighting Game

One week after the operation, the patient begins to wear weights on the penis from the time he wakes up to the time he goes to bed. Lead weights, starting at about four ounces, are strapped to the shaft. Over the course of the next three months, the weight is gradually increased to an astounding eighteen ounces! Next time you're at Starbucks, grab a pound of ground Sumatra and round up. That should give you an idea of what to expect.

According to Fitzpatrick, the weights give his patients the most difficulty. "Many say that there will be no problem until they have to wear them," he says. "But the weights are crucial to the procedure's success. Without them, you are severely limiting the potential increase in length afforded by the operation." The prospect of walking around swinging like the pendulum on a grandfather clock may be amusing to some but it is definitely something to keep in mind when considering a procedure of this nature.

And just what is it that you can expect after three months of recovery and approximately $6,200? "You can expect an increase of about three to four centimetres in the flaccid length of the penis and an increase of about two centimetres in the erect length," states Dr. Fitzpatrick. He does, however, point out that these figures are an average, and that some patients have gained more while others have gained less.

One Thick Pony?

For those men who are satisfied with their length but a little shy about the circumference of their penis, Dr. Fitzpatrick offers fat injections. In this procedure, fat is first harvested from the abdomen. (To a bargain hunter it sounds like a two-for-one deal: lose some girth round the middle and gain it downstairs!) The harvested fat is then injected throughout the length of the penis through a series of tiny incisions at the base of the corona—that's the head, guys. A needle is inserted into the incision all the way to the base of the shaft. As it is withdrawn, the fat is pumped out. Sounds romantic doesn't it? The patient must keep his penis wrapped for at least two weeks in order for the fat to "take". While recovery is much shorter and there is less pain than with penile lengthening, patients are made aware that swelling of the penis will be marked. "Many patients are ecstatic with the results right after surgery before the swelling goes down," muses Dr. Fitzpatrick. "When the final results are revealed after three months, they're happy but they miss the extra swelling." He recommends that the patient take a week off work. As with the other procedure, they are also warned to abstain from sex for three weeks and sports for six.

Dr. Fitzpatrick readily admits that the results are less predictable with fat injections as they are with penile lengthening. "Fat tissue must develop a blood supply and so only half of the injected fat cells survive in the long term," he explains. This can sometimes lead to the bumpy/lumpy fat distribution that is the stuff of nightmares. The average increase in the circumference of the flaccid penis is approximately two centimetres. But many of Dr. Fitzpatrick's patients opt to have the procedure more than once. "About half of my patients come back for another treatment," he says. At about $4,000 a shot, it could be a very expensive proposition.

Limp Bizkit

When considering any surgery, be it reconstructive or cosmetic, it is important to be aware of all possible complications and long-term effects. Dr. Fitzpatrick was very forthcoming with the potential complications of penile surgery and of surgery in general. "All surgeries can expect complications in one to two percent of cases," he warns. "The three major areas for concern are infection, bleeding and haematoma. With penile surgery in particular, the real danger is injury to blood vessels and nerves in the penis: those structures responsible for normal penile function." (AKA: impotence). It's possible that in your zeal to make them squeal you could be left with a soldier who won't salute. In a moment of revealing humour after a long interview, Dr. Fitzpatrick added that he had been very fortunate in his career and that that particular problem had not arisen, "Touch wood!"

It's All In Your Head—Pick One...

While Dr. Fitzpatrick treats patients with serious medical conditions such as pelvic fractures and childhood traumas that make sexual relations impossible or painful, a great number of his patients seek him out for what he calls "Locker Room Syndrome". Although it sounds like the title of a football-themed Jeff Stryker movie, it is a self-image crisis stemming from the fear, real or perceived, that you don't measure up. "What these patients get out of a procedure is a confidence that they did not have before. It is very similar to the confidence a woman gets with breast implants," he reasons. He cautions that just having the extra length or girth will not necessarily improve your sex life but that the confidence boost will change the way a patient interacts with those around him. It is that change in behaviour and not the new toy in your pants that will have an impact on your sex life.

As well, he points out that those men with existing erectile dysfunction cannot be helped by cosmetic procedures. Although that seems an obvious statement, he has to turn away up to two men for each one that he operates on because of a pre-existing condition or unrealistic expectations. That must be where the Jeff Stryker movie comes in. "If you want to walk out with twelve inches," Dr. Fitzpatrick says, "I can't help you."

For more information on penile procedures or Dr. Fitzpatrick visit the site **www.fairviewplasticsurgery.com**. For more information on Dr. Robert H. Stubbs, MD's Cosmetic Surgicenter in Toronto visit **www.PSURG.com**. ▼

Reverse repentance

By Reverend Michael Nicholas, MCC Church

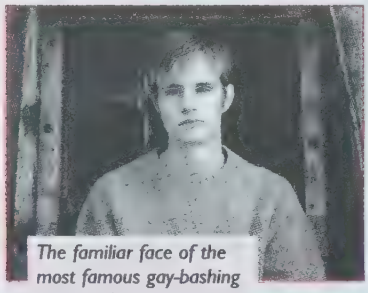
LOOKING BACK

Reprinted from November 1998

"Repent Now." "Turn or Burn." These were two of the placards I glimpsed in the background at Matthew Shepard's funeral last Thursday. They were nicer than some of the others: "God Hates Fags" and "Matt is in Hell".

I was shocked at myself for bursting into tears when I heard that Matthew Shepard had died. For four days I had prayed earnestly that he might survive, but it was not to be. Two days later, five thousand mourners attended a candlelight vigil in Los Angeles, and tens of thousands more came out in a show of respect in cities across Canada and the U.S. I quietly placed a candle in my kitchen window. Better to light a candle than to sit and curse the darkness.

Readers will forgive me if this column reflects a spiritual perspective on Matthew's murder. I was invited to contribute in my capacity as the pastor of the Calgary Metropolitan Community Church, and as someone who has listened to many express their feelings over the past ten days. We have been quietly touched by this young death, and many of us will not be the same again.



The familiar face of the most famous gay-bashing victim in history

In the week following Matthew's death, as I listened to the fears and concerns of others in our community and tried to sort out my own emotions, I was also planning for a Holy Union (what we call a gay "wedding") to be celebrated at the end of the week. With apologies to Larry and Tyler, I have to say that my mind was focused more on events in Wyoming that day than on their wedding. Maybe that's why, as I opened the Bible to read for them Saint Paul's famous hymn to love, I realized that I held in my hands the most dangerous weapon in the world. Forget SCUD missiles—the words printed on the pages of that book have been used for centuries as a rationale to denounce, oppress and murder homosexuals. And yet, this is also our only weapon with which to fight back.

We must fight back, because the message contained in the Bible has nothing to do with oppression or discrimination. Who surrendered the Bible to the Christian right? Where did they get the idea that they own the truth? The message of the Bible is that we are, each and every one of us, imbued by our Creator God with a dignity and worth which cannot be stripped from us. If the Bible has a common theme, it is that we are each of immense value to the God who created us, and we respond by loving and respecting ourselves and everyone else. Realizing our dignity, loving ourselves, and not allowing fundamentalists to claim a monopoly on God—these are our weapons.

It's hard to love two thugs who sadistically assault (and eventually kill) a young gay man, but we have to. If we give up on them, and others like them, then they have won.

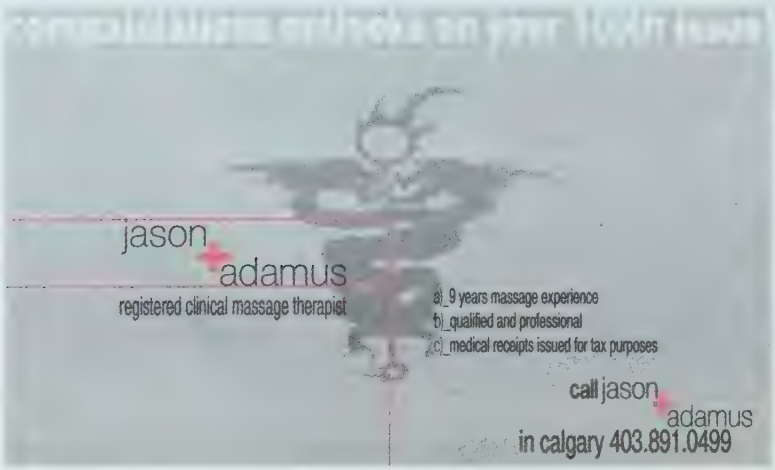
Last week's Holy Union came at just the right time. What better way to assert our pride and claim lives free of fear. When we are reviled, we will stand strong. We will say "no." We will speak with our dignity.

Matthew Shepard December 1, 1976 - October 12, 1998

The day after the assault, MCC publicly denounced the religious right and called on them to repent of the way in which they have fostered hatred toward gays and lesbians with their religious bigotry. They responded in predictable fashion, denying that they were anti-gay (the "we-love-the-sinner-but-hate-the-sin" attitude) and expressing sadness at the assault (with a few notable exceptions: check out the photos at www.godhatesfags.com). This is the root of the problem. Those who teach and preach that homosexuals are intrinsically wrong or a danger to others, are unaware of the way their words are perceived by their listeners. We must educate them. We must show them how their words hurt us. Screaming does no good. I have no doubt that the Pope is filled with compassion when he calls for gays to be chaste and repentant, but many see his words as an indication that we are evil and, therefore, not of the same value or worth as others. We may even start to believe it ourselves. From there it is an easy step to see homosexuals as expendable at best or, at worst, a menace to be eradicated. Their sadness at the news of Matthew's death is insufficient; they must also regret that they have, however unwittingly, contributed to it.

So, perhaps ironically, it was the message held by an anti-gay demonstrator at the funeral that holds the key: "Repent!" To them I say: repent of your obsessive campaign to 'save' the homosexual—you don't need to save us, we're not going extinct. Repent of your lack of understanding, and the way in which your followers have misconstrued your words. We must also repent of our hatred toward those who oppress us, and of our unwillingness to educate. Repent that it's easier to complain than to take action.

And repent that things have proceeded to a point where a young man can be tortured and killed in the spirit of hate. Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord. And light perpetual cause to shine upon him.



A great gay gathering

By Outlooks Staff

Outside of Pride celebrations, it's one of the biggest vehicles for encouraging cross-community involvement. Now in its twelfth year, the Alberta Rockies Gay Rodeo Association-hosted Canadian Rockies International Rodeo (CRIR), the only one of its kind north of the 49th parallel in the International Gay Rodeo Association Bud Light Series circuit, is sets to kick off another round of "family" fun this coming July long weekend. Mounted annually in the appropriately rustic setting of Symon's Valley Ranch (now just a horseshoe's throw from Calgary city limits), the CRIR offers a bit of something for everyone and has become one of the premier gay events in the year's social calendar. Visitors from across Canada and the continental United States—not to mention such far-flung locales as Hawaii, the U.K. and even Australia—gear up and get down to business with everything from rodeo events and a pancake breakfast to top-rate entertainment and roof-raising dances.

2005 headliners The Daughters, formerly Farmer's Daughter

This year's rodeo promises to be no exception, and will feature all the elements its participants have come to expect. The weekend kicks off with a Friday night Cabaret presented by Stuart Aikins Casting and ARGRA. In 2000, Farmer's Daughter delivered an unparalleled performance that got the entire event off to a rollicking start. Now dubbed 'The Daughters', these three amazing performers are back to deliver their unique brand of high-energy entertainment. This not-to-be-missed concert will be augmented by the ever-popular D.C. Cowboys performance troupe and the first of three dances. As alcohol will be served at all of the dances, admission is limited to those eighteen years and older.

Saturday begins in true western-style with a pancake breakfast to fortify participants and spectators alike for day one of rodeo action. The Grand Entry and Opening Ceremonies commence at noon, and are followed by both traditional (steer riding, flag racing) and "camp" (goat dressing, while drag races) events. Later that day, a roast beef dinner (always a sell-out) marks the transition from "day fun" to "night fun", a perfect preamble to the massive Cruiseline Barnburner Dance, one of the largest of the year. The next day features more great rodeo action capped off by an award ceremony and the Happy Trails Dance, sponsored by Calgary's own Money-Pennies Eatery and Bar.

On both Saturday and Sunday, visitors can peruse the wares and displays of many diverse businesses and community groups in the retail tents, situated just outside the rodeo infield, and everything from snacks to full meals can be had at one of several food outlets located on site at Symon's Valley Ranch. For those who wish to make the CRIR a "one-stop" event, camping at the ranch is a must. Reservations can be made on remaining spots by calling (403) 274-4574. For those who prefer their accommodation to be a little less "authentic", the Sheraton Suites Calgary Eau Claire is offering a special reduced rate. Call 1-888-784-8370 from out-of-town or (403) 266-7200 locally to book—and don't forget to mention ARGRA/IGRA to receive the special rodeo rate.

As with any large-scale event, volunteers are crucial to success of the CRIR. If you would like to help out, please contact ARGRA by telephone at (403) 541-8140 or send an e-mail to: volunteer@argra.org.

A TRULY *CANADIAN* EXPERIENCE

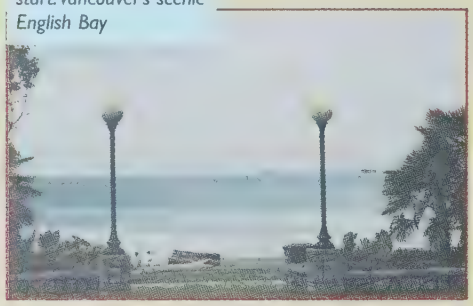
By David Crosson

LOOKING BACK

Reprinted from November 2003

I love trains. I remember my mother telling me when I was quite young that the only way to see the very best of Canada was by rail, and she backed up her claim by taking me on all sorts of wonderful and memorable trips.

Later in life, out on my own, the train was my chosen mode of transport whenever I moved between cities; their very generous baggage policies (up to 300 pounds, if memory serves) made it easy to move the essentials and the leisurely pace of the journey always gave me time to prepare myself for life in a new environment. You can well imagine my disappointment some years ago when a decision was made to cease all general Via travel out of Calgary's station. Given my history with rail travel, you'll also likely have no trouble getting your head around the elation I felt when Via invited me to experience the journey between Vancouver and Toronto in Silver and Blue class aboard the *Canadian*, one of their most distinguished trains.



A very good place to start: Vancouver's scenic English Bay

Aside from my own extremely selfish reasons for wanting to make the trip, I also thought it would be an excellent way to explore this as an option for gay honeymoon travel, particularly since legal same-sex marriage is still only available in B.C. and Ontario. This seemed a particularly good fit based on the number of calls we get from Americans wanting to know how they should go about tying the knot north of the 49th and how to honeymoon (a less expensive prospect for them up here) in some of our more scenic locales. And, whatever your reason for taking the *Canadian*, the scenic locales are dealt in spades, all wrapped up in one comprehensive and enjoyable package.

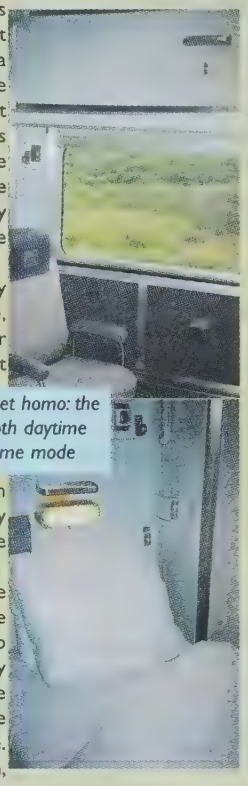
Perhaps one of the nicest aspects of the Vancouver-Toronto journey is the fact that travellers may "bookend" their train trip with a few days in either or both of our most gay-friendly cities. Being closer to the coast, I chose to start my journey there, although Via does also offer the same service out of Toronto on a regular basis. As luck would have it, I was in Vancouver during the Gay and Lesbian Business Association's annual conference, an excellent forum for networking and an opportunity to temper rapid Christmas shopping with a bit of schmooze.

It's not the Hogwart's Express but there's still a touch of magic about it

As always, the Sands by the Sea was a comfortable and conveniently located home base, especially enjoyable because of its proximity to English Bay, Stanley Park, and the Denman and Davie "villages". It has actually become a bit of a ritual for *Outlooks* staffers to mark arrival in Vancouver with a drink and a plate of crab cakes in the hotel's Bayside Lounge—I did so twice while I was there, once upon arrival and again to toast my much-anticipated departure. On reflection, based on the success of my trip, I think I should have raised a glass of champagne instead of merlot.

When the time came to leave Vancouver, I must admit that I was as giddy as a six-year-old going to the circus (or an adult going to the Cirque). As the *Canadian* departs at 5:30 p.m., I was left with some time between hotel check-out and actually boarding; fortunately, when I went to check in that morning, I was invited to leave all my luggage to be placed in my room on the train prior to departure. Unencumbered by bags, I was free to do a final round of shopping and take in a movie—the latter being an excellent "time-eater" if you're a bit wound up and eager to get going. And, yes, in proper cities they do have matinees year 'round, not just when the kiddies are out of school.

When I returned to the station that evening, I was pleasantly surprised to find a jazz vocalist playing out on the fenced-in terrace, along with tea, coffee and a variety of snacks set out in the Silver and Blue waiting lounge. It was the perfect start to what would turn out to be a perfect journey—and things only got better from there. Once onboard, we were invited to partake in a champagne and hors d'oeuvre send-off reception in the dome car, the first of many special touches that would make the trip even more memorable.



Home sweet homo: the room in both daytime and nighttime mode

Without a note of hyperbole I can say that my experiences aboard the *Canadian* were incredible, though it is difficult to either categorize or summarize them in an effective manner. To attempt such a thing would be to do a disservice to both you as a reader and to the trip in general. What I *can* do is share a bit about what life is like on a long distance train excursion, in the hope that the information provided assists you in enjoying a similar journey down the road (or rail), should you wish to make one.

First, if you're going to truly make this a holiday, the motto "Go big or go home" is actually quite applicable, although I would modify that to read "Go as big as you possibly can or stay home". Like my fellow passengers, I was fortunate enough to be travelling in Via's Silver and Blue class, the ultimate service that the railway offers on this particular line. I was comfortably set up in a two-person bedroom, an exercise in spatial efficiency and rather spacious accommodations given the dimensions of a train car. My room featured two armchairs, a private toilet, a small closet and a vanity equipped with sink, mirror and lights. A basket of toiletries and linens was included as well. The train staff was also able to install a small table in my room, so that I could jot down a few ideas along the way-these "ideas" actually turned into a CD review, a screenplay and the very story you're reading right now. Talk about efficiency. Technophiles will be happy to know that there are full-service plug-ins in each room, so don't hesitate to pack your electric razor or the A/C adapter for your portable CD player—along with the necessary headphones, of course.

Shower facilities are available on board and are located in the sleeping cars. Though limited in scale, the stalls are effective and efficient, a welcome amenity when the options include a sponge bath from the bedroom sink or a "camper-style" hiatus from hygiene, the latter not recommended. Trial-and-error taught me that it's wise to push the button once before actually getting into the shower, as there may be cold water lingering in the lines and this helps to clear it out. Don't forget to pack a robe or lounging pajamas for the trip down the hall; no matter how divine your physique, it's still considered bad form to traipse up and down the corridors wrapped only in a towel. (Yes, 'train' and 'tubs' do both start with the same letter, but the similarity ends there.) Also, be sure to bring along the essential elements of your Laszlo or Clinique or Body Shop regimen, as the trip takes you from humid to dry back to humid again in the journey from Vancouver to Toronto. Be warned: these changes in atmosphere can play havoc with your skin if left unchecked, and nothing spoils the glamour of train travel more than a blotchy complexion or a faceful of spots.

For the most part, dress is casual and comfortable regardless of accommodation class, though I do recommend packing sweaters or a light jacket in case it gets chilly in your room or other areas of the train.

It was my choice to travel in the fall and, in hindsight, it was a wise one; however,

continued opposite

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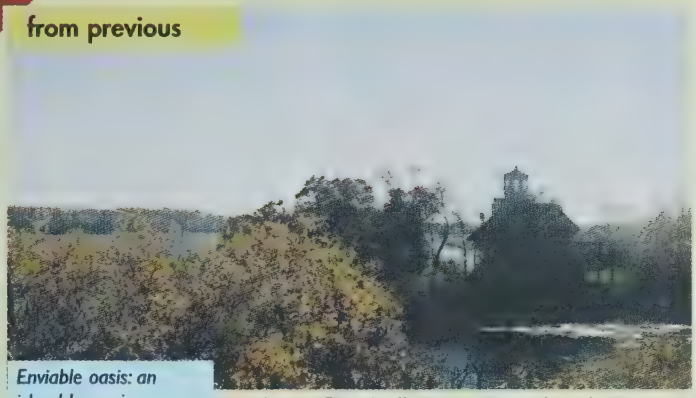


Enviable oasis: an island home in Ontario's lake country

this being Canada, I'm quite sure that the scenery along the route is spectacular at *any* time of the year. It's hard to determine which part of the trip is the most scenic, as each zone features many spectacular qualities. Whether it's B.C.'s lush mountains and valleys, the expansive beauty of the prairies or the spectacular mosaic of fall foliage in Ontario's Lake region, as a passenger on the *Canadian* you're never at a loss for a gorgeous view.

Even though large windows are common to rooms, roomettes, berths and economy seats, the dome car is obviously the best way to experience the scenery, as it affords the traveller a lofty 360-degree perspective on all the sights and sites along the way. At certain points in the journey, the elevation of bridges or valley-adjacent track makes it feel like some sort of low-flying airship, completely untethered to the earth. This area of the train is accessible at all hours of the day and night, and can serve as a calm moonlit sanctuary once most of the other passengers have gone to bed. Packing a miniature book light or batteries for your Walkman or portable CD player is a good idea, as reading or listening to music adds greatly to the experience once night falls and clear scenery is at a minimum. The dome car is also an excellent place to become acquainted with your fellow passengers—everybody is in a very relaxed "holiday" mode and all seem quite eager to meet new people.

If you are at all adverse to overtures from strangers, you may want to work on your interpersonal skills before boarding the *Canadian*—invariably you'll be in a situation that puts you face-to-face with others onboard, most likely during mealtime. Sittings are coordinated at three separate intervals for each time of the day and, for maximum effectiveness of service, passengers are seated together during each meal. As previously mentioned, there is nothing to be afraid of; for the most part, everyone is in a jovial and chatty mood because of the nature of the trip and generally open to meeting people of all types. I was fortunate enough to make the acquaintance of some absolutely delightful people, including the Browns from Birmingham, England and a fascinating couple from New Jersey who seemed to have spent their entire long life together seeking out the best and most interesting things that our planet has to offer.

Even though I admit that I was initially skeptical of such public interaction, to have avoided such encounters would have been to miss out on one of the key benefits of travelling by rail, and I am certainly richer for it. I am also happy to report that being gay was completely a non-issue, not surprising given the fact that everyone I encountered was well-travelled and open to new experiences. At one point, the gentleman next me at lunch said, "Oh, you're gay? Well, I'm Australian; who else have we got at this table? C'mon, don't be shy—even if you're an American!" (Arnold Schwarzenegger had just been elected Governor of California.) It was a great icebreaker and certainly made that particular sitting much more fun for our table and the ones within earshot around us.

When it comes to food, Via certainly does not disappoint. Gone are the stiff, tepid hamburgers of my rail-riding youth, replaced now by pan-fried pickerel, duchesse potatoes, bison burgers, mescalun salads and "reverse" Veal Oscar, with all the good bits bundled within. A selection of vegetarian entrees is also available for passengers so inclined. What is particularly impressive is that such satisfying fare is offered throughout the trip, particularly since it is prepared by a crew of about six people working in a space no larger than eight by thirty feet, hurtling along at a terrific speed.

The service aboard the Canadian is also quite wonderful, and certainly adds to the experience. Two impeccable gentlemen, Lloyd and Anthony, took amazing care of me and my Car 212 cohorts. Lloyd kept our entire section on "fast-forward" from Vancouver to Winnipeg with his quick wit and generous laugh, while Anthony discreetly ensured that everything was "just so" for the balance of the trip. The table he laid out in my room for the final dinner of our excursion was worth the journey alone.

In terms of tipping in Silver and Blue class, there is a bit of a grey area, as all meals are included in the cost of the trip. Prior to departure, I went to a bank and availed myself of $100 in crisp five-dollar bills, as there are no cash facilities onboard the train. As a rule, I left a fiver under my napkin after each meal (the wait staff, which works as a team, apparently pools gratuities) and did likewise on my pillow for the morning servicing of my room, as it was too difficult to gauge exactly when evening turndown would occur if I was off in another car. Please remember that this is only offered as a guideline, although it served me well on my journey and the staff seemed pleased enough with this standard amount. I did not, however, take alcohol with my meals, so if you choose to do so you may wish to increase your tip accordingly. For the record, consumption of personal alcohol is permitted within the confines of rooms and roomettes, so packing a nip or two is not out of the question if these are your accommodations. If you don't remember to equip yourself, the stop in Jasper is just long enough to run into town and pick up a bottle of something—red wine being a safe bet as there are no refrigeration facilities in the individual rooms. Inexpensive corkscrews can be purchased for about three dollars in most of Jasper's liquor vendors, if you don't already travel with one.

As we approached the cityscape of Toronto, dramatic against a night sky, I could not believe how quickly the great distance had slid by. The hustle and bustle of the magnificent Union Station provided a jarring contrast to a lazy three days aboard the train, and prepared me for the decent urban jolt that Hogtown provides its visitors. Fortunately, I was able to decompress a little at Gloucester Mansion, an excellent heritage B&B that provided me with a much-needed soak in a seemingly bottomless bubble bath and a welcome expanse of crisp linens in which to sleep. I was also able to meet even more new people in the Gloucester's serene and well-stocked breakfast room, including a couple up from the States to attend a gay wedding.

Home away from home: Toronto's elegant and comfortable Gloucester Mansion

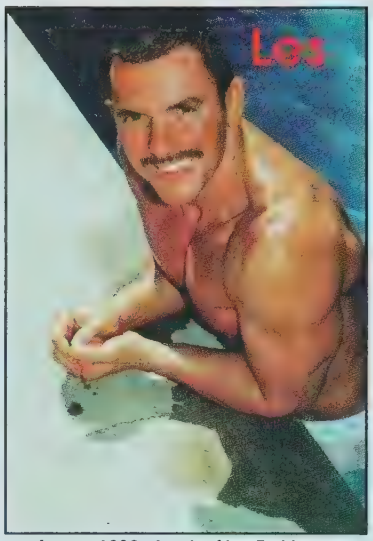
As the cars on the *Canadian* have been restored to their art deco-inspired glory, I continued the loose "theme" of my trip with a visit to the Royal Ontario Museum's superb tribute to that same aesthetic movement. The show, which boasts everything from Cecil Beaton photographs and a Picasso to Ruhlman tables and Schiaperelli gowns, runs until January 4th of 2003 and is a must-see for anyone in Toronto. Also of interest to people of a certain age is the ROM's Peter Rabbit exhibit, which encompasses the world of beloved children's writer Beatrix Potter and even features original examples of her drawings and paintings. That particular show will also remain on display until January 4th.

Now at home, amidst the chaos of renovations, I'm grateful for the experience Via Rail and the Canadian provided me. I disembarked in Toronto feeling relaxed, refreshed and, above all else, extremely patriotic. If there is one thing every citizen in this country must do at least once in his or her life, it is to experience the unparalleled joy of a trip across Canada on the train. Having become reacquainted with my "old flame", I know that it is something I will endeavour to do again and again for the rest of my life. If you would like more information on how you may travel on the Canadian from either Toronto or Vancouver, log on to **www.viarail.ca**. Other sites that can help you plan your trip include: **www.rpbhotels.com** (Sands by the Sea); **www.rom.on.ca**; and **www.gloucestersquare.com**. All aboard? I certainly hope so.

Note: if anyone wishes to contact me with specific questions about the trip or the Canadian's amenities, please feel free to do so at: editor@outlooks.ca.

April 2000; shot by Simon Burroughs

August 2000; shot by Simon Burroughs



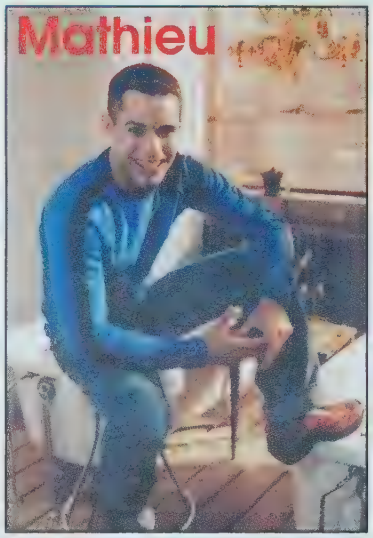
August 1998; shot by Alex Dalderis

April 2002; shot by Dan Kozma

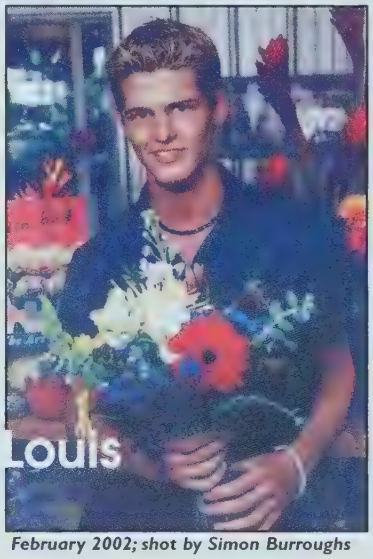
DON'T YOU WISH?

A selection of gents from the past eight years...

February 2001; shot by Simon Burroughs



January 2002; shot by Simon Burroughs



February 2002; shot by Simon Burroughs

August 2001; shot by Simon Burroughs

February 1999; shot by Heath Fletcher

July 2000; shot by David Crosson

A sister's love

By Darrin Hagen

LOOKING BACK

Reprinted from January 2002

At 2:30 in the morning on November 17, Tim Chisolm was heading home from Vancouver's Stanley Park. A year earlier, he had helped his friend Aaron Webster bury his prized dog Zane there. In the parking lot behind the pool at Second Beach, Chisolm found his friend Webster: bloody, naked except for a pair of hiking boots, and near death. Chisolm comforted the dying Webster before the ambulance arrived.

At Webster's funeral, Chisolm shared memories with the friends and relatives who attended the service. Webster was remembered as a big, gentle man with a big heart who loved life.

The rest of Canada's gay community will remember Webster as a victim of the hate we are expected to face without complaint day after day, and his death will likely be the first hate-motivated murder investigation in British Columbia's history. Witnesses to Webster's beating report seeing a group of three or four men armed with baseball bats or pool cues.

Pamela Miller is Aaron Webster's younger sister. She remembers her brother as someone who talked a blue streak and loved to laugh. "We have some remorse, but what I really feel is shock," she says. "I cannot believe that someone could act against another for a reason like that. I've always been so supportive. My whole family has."

Indeed, as Aaron gradually came out to his family, the announcement met little resistance from them. "Most of us already suspected," laughs Pamela. She recalls the moment when Aaron turned to her and said he had something very important to share with her. "We went for drinks. I was watching the hockey game. Aaron hated sports. He turned to me and said, 'I have something serious to tell you. I'm gay.'"

"I'm pretty happy here too, Aaron," Miller responded, laughing.

Aaron Webster grew up with his family in Penticton. His sister describes him as a "big kid; tall, with a good sense of humour and a gentleness. He was kind. He loved people." At school as a child, Webster would often be bullied, but he never fought back.

The family had all talked about him; they suspected there was something different about the eldest son. "His announcement didn't change the fact that we loved him," remembers Miller.

As an adult, he moved to the gay mecca of the West End. There, he worked in a paint store but was gaining a reputation as a top-notch photographer. It was at a West End watering hole that he first came out to his sister. It was in Vancouver that he met his partner, with whom he lived for seventeen years.

When Webster first moved to Vancouver, Pamela Miller saw the diversity of the West End for the first time. She remembers her first time in a gay bar: Webster ran ahead to open the door for her, concealing the sign that announced what sort of bar they were entering. "Aaron wanted to see how long it would take for me to figure it out. We walked in and the first person I saw was a huge drag queen in gold lamé and a big bushy moustache. I just said, 'So where are we gonna sit?'"

Miller's fondness for her brother's neighbourhood is obvious. She was immediately struck by the diversity, openness and relaxed atmosphere of the West End. It seemed that Aaron had finally found a safe place to be who he was.

The death of his lover from AIDS-related illnesses made Webster wonder why he hadn't been stricken as well. "Aaron kept asking 'Why? Why didn't I get it?' I told him, 'God must have another purpose for you.'"

Pamela Miller learned of her brother's murder the morning after it happened. She came home from one of her courses—she is completing her Bachelor of Science—to voicemail packed with messages. Her stepfather finally broke the news to her. The family headed to Vancouver.

"I was taken to Stanley Park, to the spot where Aaron died. A memorial was forming on the spot where they found him. There were candles, flowers, lanterns and poems. Day by day, the memorial got bigger and bigger."

Then there was the spontaneous gathering that occurred the day after the bashing. Word went out in the community to meet at Little Sister's. Soon crowds of people stood, silent, without a real plan but with a need to surround themselves with others who felt the same pain. A friend of mine, who attended the gathering, remarked on the silence of the unplanned march. As he arrived at the bottom of Davie Street, he looked back and saw thousands of people behind him.

When I told Miller about the gathering, she responded, "I saw it on the news. All I could think was that I hope to God there are straight people in that gathering as well. Because it's our apathy that needs addressing."

The same day as family gathered for Webster's memorial service, the gay community held a public service. Miller was touched by the compassion shown to her by total strangers. "All these people came up to us to voice their support and their condolences. My brother would have been very proud of his community."

Soon afterward, a fund was launched to raise money to post a reward for information leading to the arrest of the killer(s). For Miller, the community's response to the tragedy has had a galvanizing effect on herself as well.

"It taught me that we have to support each other. Let's put all this talk of equality into action. There's been too much rhetoric. It's taught me to be supportive of all my brothers and sisters in the world community."

The tragic events of November 17 have also changed the focus of Miller's passion irrevocably. She is currently drafting letters to our leaders.

"I got home from Vancouver and downloaded the Human Rights Legislation." she says. Miller now knows as much as any gay activist about Alberta's dismal history of denying gay rights.

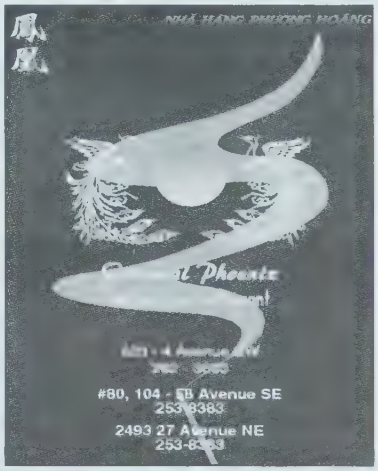
"I realized that Canadians are apathetic. I'm determined to stay on top of the government from this day on. I have a copy of the Charter of Rights. When I first saw it, I was so proud that we have this document, this mantra of our society. It's time to apply it now."

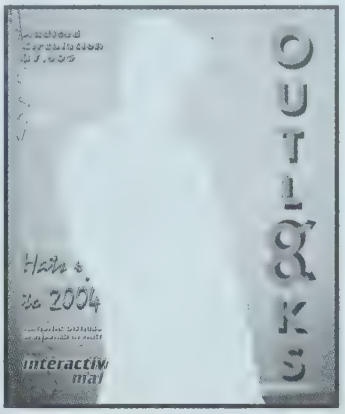
In response to Webster's murder, the federal government is considering making incitement hatred of gays and lesbians a crime. Justice Minister Anne McLellan has said she'll consider amending the Criminal Code to protect homosexuals from hate propaganda as long as there is support from provincial governments. Are you listening, Ralph?

For Miller, the reasons for complete inclusion are elementary: "I think of what Aaron went through when his lover died. I can't imagine what it felt like to not get that same recognition of his grief that the rest of us take for granted, that your partner in life has died. Love is love. It's a very simple concept. I've raised my children that way.

"We are Canadians. We stand for acceptance of diversity. People see us as a beacon of freedom. We open our borders to accept people from all over the world, but we still have trouble accepting those who live within our borders.

"I want to ask the government 'Where is the leadership?' The Supreme Court ordered that sexual orientation be read into the Alberta Human Rights, Citizenship and Multiculturalism Act. It's time to change the law to reflect that. If the leaders of this country had done their duty and responded to what Canadians believe, my brother might not have died." ▼





Could this be YOU?

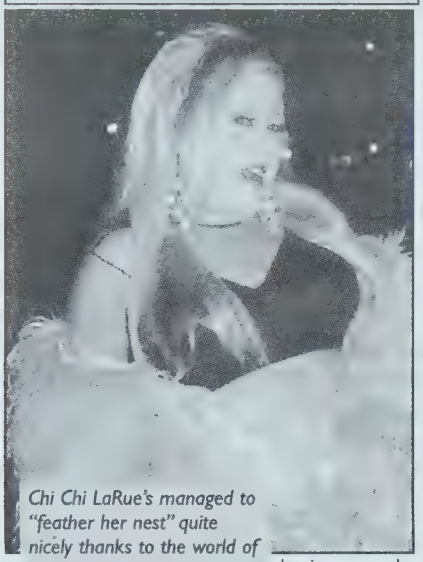
Outlooks **is seeking attractive and outgoing guys for future cover and Don't You Wish features. If you are interested in applying, please e-mail a recent picture of yourself along with stats and contact information to: main@outlooks.ca . Please note: only those whose submissions are of interest will be contacted for further discussion.**

LaRue's livin' large

By David Crosson

LOOKING BACK

Reprinted from October 2000



Chi Chi LaRue's managed to "feather her nest" quite nicely thanks to the world of adult entertainment

To anyone who has ever cast even a casual glance at the boxes on an adult video rack, the name Chi Chi LaRue pops up quicker than some of the impressive appendages seen on the footage within. After more than a dozen years calling the shots behind the camera, LaRue has established a well-earned reputation as one of the most prolific and professional directors in the industry.

This year, LaRue scored a major accomplishment with the formation of his own production company, Rascal Video, in association with Channel 1 Releasing. This diva of gay porn has also made a mark in cyberspace, with two websites: **ChiChiLaRue.com** and **Live & Raw**.

With his fingers in so many pies, LaRue's schedule is *anything* but relaxed. *Outlooks* caught up with the now-legendary director via telephone while he was attending the IA in New Orleans.

Outlooks: What made you look at the gay porn industry and say "This business needs a little Chi Chi"?

LaRue: Well, you know, I didn't really say that at any specific point—I've been in love with pornography since I was sixteen years old. And not just for the sex aspect, I was really into the performers as people. I thought of them as stars, just like I do television or movie stars. I'd buy *Cinema X* magazine just like I would *People*, and follow the careers of these adult performers.

Audition time?: getting the goods sorted with a gentleman friend

Outlooks: This was the start of everything, then?

LaRue: When I got a chance, I moved to Minneapolis and worked at a pizza place for eight years—where I gained most of my weight! I couldn't walk by the cheese container without grabbing a handful! Then I eventually moved to Los Angeles and got a job at Catalina Video, two weeks after moving there, as a salesman. I knew so much about the business and about the stars and different videos that they hired me right away. I got bored real quick with sales because it wasn't what I wanted to do—I'm too creative—so I started art directing the photoshoots and art directing the box covers and stuff. I wanted to direct 'cause I knew I had some good ideas, but Catalina wouldn't give me a chance at first. [Legendary director] William Higgins, at a lunch we were at one day, said, "Sure, you can direct a segment." It was for a series they were doing called Hard Men, a dance video where they stripped and at the end did a jack-off scene. I got to direct one of the segments and it was actually the best on the whole tape.

Outlooks: So you got a taste of what you wanted?

LaRue: Yeah. I knew that I could do it and I really enjoyed it and they wouldn't let me direct anything else. So I quit. Moved over to a new company called In Hand and did my first movie for them called *Flexx*. I discovered my very first star with that one—Alex Stone—and I just kept going and creating.

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Outlooks: You've certainly made a name for yourself, not only as a director but as a talent scout. What do you look for in new performers—is there a certain spark?

LaRue: Do you know what? No. I'm really not picky when it comes to men. I have really diverse tastes: I like big; I like small; I like hairy; I like smooth; I like black; I like white; I like Asian... I like *everything*!

Outlooks: In the '70s, and even as recently as the early '80s, adults stars used to have a more "natural" look: a pubic hair or two out of place, less-than-ripped abs. Do you think the aesthetic has changed in the industry or is this body consciousness coming from our larger culture as well?

LaRue: In the '70s, they definitely did [look more natural] and the '80s was a decade of shaving every hair off every portion of the body. Which I, to this day, don't like; I like natural, as much as possible. I think [industry vs. culture] that it's quite mixed now. I think it's getting more diverse now—if someone's hairy they leave it that way. It's really now a preference of the model.

Outlooks: Do you ever grow bored of the sex-sex-sex, bodies-bodies-bodies?

LaRue: Absolutely! I absolutely do. Sure.

Outlooks: Is porn filmmaking as drawn out and tedious as regular filmmaking?

LaRue: Oh, *yes*. I sometimes dread having to go and direct. I mean, it comes to the point where I'm like, "Oh God, if I have to go direct one more sex scene I'm going to kill myself!" Then when I'm out at clubs, all people want to talk about is naked men and sex and dicks. And I'm like, "You know what? I don't want to talk about that." I don't want to talk about my work when I'm out. Just pull your pants down and show me your butt! [Laughs]

Outlooks: What is the well-dressed adult film director wearing on the set these days?

LaRue: You know what? A big, giant 3X T-shirt and a pair of of Levi's, size 46 waist! [Laughs]

Outlooks: You've just revamped and re-launched your website—what are some of the changes we'll see?

LaRue: Oh my God! It's got a really groovy new look and I'm going to be streaming video clips on there and doing behind-the-scenes things as well. Also, we'll feature things that you won't be able to see anywhere but my website: my birthday party, me on the third floor of the Bourbon Pub in New Orleans with thirty people who entered the big dick contest all having sex! You know, things people just aren't going to be able to see anywhere else unless they come to my website. I'm also really excited that Falcon is going to be lending their exclusives to my "Live and Raw" website. We debuted with Billy Brandt, our first Falcon exclusive, and we're going to have all of the Falcon exclusives on there at one time or another.

I win in the boob department! Chi Chi with '90s drag sensation RuPaul

Outlooks: Describe your ultimate dream cast if you were to merge Hollywood or mainstream culture with adult film.

LaRue: Well, I just went to a big party for Madonna last night and I got to meet someone that I'm just so in love with and lust after: Kevin from the Backstreet Boys. I just think he is the hottest thing in the world and I got to hang with him and his new wife, and they were the sweetest and nicest. He is just so hot... so definitely, he'd be the star! And maybe f***ing Ryan Philippe, who knows?! [Laughs]

Outlooks: Your career has blossomed in so many different directions—what do you have your sights set on next?

LaRue: [Sighs] Oh, God! I would like to direct more music videos. I don't know if you knew this, but I did a music video for Rob Halford—who used to be with Judas Priest—and he had a new band called Two, which was produced by Trent Reznor of Nine Inch Nails. I directed his video and it was amazingly exciting; it was great. And MTV turned it down because it was too controversial, of course! [Laughs] Anyway, I'd like to do more of that.

Outlooks: Any chance of leveraging some influence with Backstreet Boys, now that you know Kevin?

LaRue: [Laughs] Oh! You know what?! Could you imagine?! I've invited him to my birthday party, so we'll see if he comes! ▼

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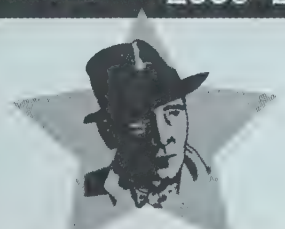

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Sunday night "spice" girl

By John Ayres

LOOKING BACK

Reprinted from February 2000

She's been called the Canadian Dr. Ruth—a comparison that demeans both the woman and her work. Far from a novelty (though undeniably entertaining), therapist Sue Johanson has won people over with her frank and practical advice on all matters sexual. Her phone-in program *Sunday Night Sex Show* is the highest-rated show on the Women's Television Network and her tireless lecture tours garner her new fans and admiration yearly. *Outlooks* recently caught up with Johanson to do an exclusive little call-in session of our own.

Outlooks: What was your initial inspiration for getting started in this profession?

Johanson: What got me started was setting up a birth control clinic for kids in the health room of a high school, way back in 1970. The teen pregnancy rate in Toronto was pretty astounding and I was raising teenagers; I was really upset by it. So I decided that I was going to start a birth control clinic for kids. It was free, no-hassle, easily accessible, no-appointment-necessary-at-all, just-drop-in place with confidentiality guaranteed. By law, we can do anything for anybody of any age without parental knowledge or consent. Now, I know that parents are upset by that, but if their kids are old enough to be involved in sex, then their kids are old enough to make decisions about the consequences.

Outlooks: Do you find it easier to talk about sex and sexuality now or do you find that people are still quite shy about it?

Johanson: I find it very easy—I've always found it very easy—to talk about sex and sexuality. Except when it came to talking to my own kids; that was different. Oh, goodness, yes! Oh, I understand parents—been there, done that. My kids never wanted to hear it from *me*. There would be ten kids around the kitchen table talking about sex, and *my* kids would not be there! Now they're adults and they tell me "Mother, we were dying to know about sex but we didn't want to hear it from you." So they'd ask their friends what I had said.

Outlooks: Do you feel that North Americans, on the whole, are more uptight about discussing issues of sex and sexuality?

Johanson: Oh, yes—absolutely. And Canadians are light years ahead of Americans in terms of talking about it, becoming comfortable with it, seeking information. You know, actively seeking it out in the library, on the Internet, that sort of thing. Now the Internet scares me because it's not always good, accurate information.

Outlooks: Homo Sapiens and monogamy—what are your thoughts?

Johanson: [Sighs.] Whoa... that's a tough one. You know, in the olden days when women died at twenty-five or thirty years of age during childbirth—and men were killed in battle left, right and centre—then monogamy was not this hand-in-hand-into-the-sunset-for-seventy-years-of-togetherness thing. It's a wonderful *ideal*. The concept that any one person can be with you and keep your life on a track of intimacy and togetherness for seventy years is... daunting. And I think we have to get over this idea that you're going to live happily ever after with the same partner. It *is* changing, it *has* changed... And I think eventually we may come to the point where the person who you fall ga-ga, ass-over-applecart in love with is maybe not the one that you marry. Marrying someone like that is not necessarily a good thing. Then maybe you marry someone who is stable and committed and a good partner.

Outlooks: What elements do you feel are key to maintaining a healthy, long-term relationship?

Johanson: You know what? *Liking* each other. Really liking each other. I like my partner; we have fun together, we enjoy each other, we laugh. We share things but we're not joined at the hip. We can argue and disagree and debate and discuss, but we don't fight. We don't fight dirty, we don't resort to name-calling or blaming each other or throwing things. Somebody may stomp off and say "I can't deal with this—I'm going for a walk; I'll talk to you tonight!"

Outlooks: I think, too, with any longer-term relationship, the sizzle goes out of the sex eventually and you have to enjoy that person's companionship.

Johanson: Oh, absolutely—you have to have fun. You have to be able to giggle about sex because, boy, sex *is* a giggle. If you can't do anything else with it you might as well giggle at it.

Outlooks: What are your views on the Kinsey scale with regard to homosexuality and heterosexuality?

"Sexpert" and all-around doll Sue Johanson

Johanson: You know what? I don't give a damn; I don't care. I am not a lesbian but I am gay-positive. I am very supportive and I work a lot with the gay and lesbian community—primarily with men, very few women—who are HIV-positive. I have a cottage where they come out in "relays" all summer long. I have a back cottage for them to use and it's dedicated to people who are HIV-positive. I am very, very comfortable with homosexuality. And I don't care if someone is different or their lifestyle is different. Whoever said mine was the best? As far as I'm concerned, they're great.

Outlooks: Do you think we'll ever see a time when "gay is okay" will occur on a widespread societal level?

Johanson: *I* don't live in Alberta, *you* do! [Laughs] You tell me. Alberta is the last—I hope—the last bastion of homophobia. You've chosen a dandy place to live! You know, I teach at Mount Royal [College] and SAIT and the U of C sometimes, and when I talk about homosexuality—oh! Olds College—*there's* a place where the minute I mention homosexuality all the guys just literally seize up. In Toronto and Vancouver, where there are large gay populations, nobody gets upset and it's quite acceptable. So what. So they go out on Hallowe'en and parade around—and we go down and watch because it, and Pride, are the best parades around. You can't beat it. It's wonderful.

Outlooks: What do you make of the bond between gay men and straight women?

Johanson: A lot of it is based on the trust levels. I know you're not going to come on to me—we're safe as houses. We can have fun together, I can boogie my buns off and it's not seen as flirting; I'm not trying to turn you on or lead you down the garden path. The other thing is that we can talk unabashedly, because I know damn well that you are not going to hold that against me and use it as ammunition in the future. And you just kind of accept me just as I am—farts and all—that's the way it is. This is a great generalization, but females really enjoy the spontaneity of gay males. I mean, when they decide to do something they do it with flair—remember, I'm generalizing. I watch the guys out at the cottage and if they decide they're going to do a dinner, they *do a dinner*. Twelve courses. At the cottage. They don't do it every day, but when they do it, oh god is it *done*. And they have fun doing it. You know, we straights are so boring!

Outlooks: [Laughs.] Do you have any parting thoughts for us?

Johanson: Well, you know, my biggest concern is for kids in high school or junior high who think they might be gay. They feel so terribly alone and isolated and they can't talk to anybody because if it ever gets out, they're dead. I try to say to kids "Hey, if you're in high school and you think you're homosexual, just keep it under your hat." If you live in a large city where you can find a gay and lesbian organization downtown—great. Go there and play tennis and basketball and join the baseball team. Do whatever everybody else is doing with the gang, but in your own school setting, be careful. It's a tough time and this is why things like gay hotlines are just essential.

Sue Johanson's *Sunday Night Sex Show* can be seen at 10 p.m. E/P time on the Women's Television Network. ▼

Hard core talent

By David Crosson

LOOKING BACK

Reprinted from October 2002

To this day, there are people who refuse to speak to me because I sent them to see the "romantic comedy" *Hustler White*. In the global gay community, writer/director/artist Bruce LaBruce is both revered and reviled—there are no half-measures when it comes to how he is received and perceived. "In person", or at least as a living entity at the other end of a phone line, LaBruce is thoughtful, generous and very certain of himself and his work. In an exclusive interview, *Outlooks* caught up with the Toronto-based artist recently to discuss fame, fear and filmmaking.

Outlooks: Was '60s Warhol boy-toy Rod la Rod an inspiration for your name?

LaBruce: I think that was *one* of the references. My real surname is Bruce and a former roommate used to call me 'la Bruce' when I was acting grand, so that was part of the genesis of it. I was certainly aware of Rod la Rod—and that would certainly be a good role model for anyone, I think!

Outlooks: As a Canadian, do you think you have a longer way to go in terms of rebellion, given our international reputation as "pussies"?

"These days, celebrity itself is considered a good thing and to be famous is a goal in itself. Again, it's about context: there are interesting celebrities and there are fools with nothing to say. That scares me."

LaBruce: Yeah... everyone always assumes that I'm from L.A.—in fact, I was just mentioned in the *New York Times* a couple of months ago and they said "L.A.-based photographer Bruce LaBruce..." and my art agent raked them over the coals for that. I don't really mind that people think I'm from Los Angeles; the ironic thing is that I quite like Canada and I like living in Canada. But I'm not a nationalist; I'm not one of these people who goes around waving flags. On the other hand, I'm very much a product of Canada and my rebellion has sprung out of railing against complacency and conservatism and the stodginess of the residual British Empire. I would say I've still got some things to rebel against, for sure. The whole thrust of the Canadian film establishment in particular, for me, is still pretty stodgy and needs some shaking up.

Outlooks: In terms of reaction to art—your art, any art—is shock better as a byproduct than as a goal?

LaBruce: My position has always been that my films actually kind of work to make things *less* shocking, not more shocking. I use subject matter that is perhaps regarded as shocking but my whole goal is to ameliorate it somehow or to make it more palatable or more human or romantic or comedic. So that has really been my whole position. For example, with *Hustler White*, it was taking the whole extreme, fetishistic subculture and making it seem more romantic and funny and almost sort of whimsical. For me, the project is almost in reverse, to make things more palatable.

Outlooks: Well, *Hustler White* was full of shocking material but there was so much of it, it became the norm. It's like putting bright colour in a beige room—it jumps out. You put bright colour with other bright colours and it works, it blends.

LaBruce: Yeah, exactly. The one critic who I thought really 'hit it' —a French critic, of course—said that in a world where the norm is extreme fetishism and violence and, you know, "stumping" [sex with the remaining part of an amputated limb], the last taboo is tenderness. I thought that really hit the nail on the head. You know, I do work within the porn industry and my last film was marketed as a hard-core porn film. I also shoot for pornographic magazines, but even in those contexts I try to draw something else from the subject and make it into art. That's the difference between doing porn for the sake of porn and doing something more artistic. Even the way that sexually explicit imagery has been mainstreamed, I think many people have used it in a really crass and unthinking way; they think it's cool just because it's extreme.

Outlooks: Shock value.

LaBruce: Shock value, exactly. The whole culture of the male magazines that have proliferated lately I find really tacky and crass. It's not cool at all. "L.A.-coke-and-titties" we call it.

Outlooks: Now, some people think that you are very scary person…

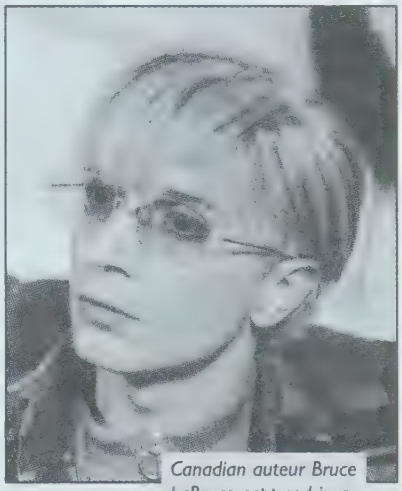
LaBruce: [Chuckles] Yeeeeaaaahh?

Outlooks: What is it that scares Bruce LaBruce?

LaBruce: [Laughs] What we were just talking about! People think it's strange coming from me because I've been accused of being a misogynist more than once in my life, but the whole lack of feminism being taken seriously now or trying to undermine the whole movement, where men can feel justified in being chauvinist pigs, that scares me. The whole thrust of the entertainment industry where celebrity has just become so over-determined and overvalued; people have lost the ability to determine what is good and what is bad. These days, celebrity itself is considered a good thing and to be famous is a goal in itself. Again, it's about context: there are interesting celebrities and there are fools with nothing to say. That scares me. And the fact that we're heading for our imminent annihilation in a Third World War kind of scares me, too.

Outlooks: Bit of a bugger, isn't it?

LaBruce: Well, yeah—especially since everyone seems to be shrugging and saying, "Oh, well, what can we do?" The fact that the Left has kind of folded since Sept. 11th really annoys and scares me. It just crumbled; dissent and that kind of protest were neutered. It's sort of come back in the last six months or so, but a lot of people who used to be relatively Leftist have become conservative in a bad way. There's a certain kind of "neo-con" that I appreciate, but all this just seems fear-based. It's not good.



Canadian auteur Bruce LaBruce captured in a Warhol moment

Outlooks: You've done the skinhead thing as pornography, which admittedly can be quite sexy; what's next on the horizon in terms of "edgy" erotica for you?

LaBruce: I'm shooting another porno movie in Berlin at the end of October and it is, of course, a terrorist-themed porno. It's called the *Raspberry Reich* and it's about a group of young people who emulate the style of the Beider Meinhof—that '70s sunglasses-and-Frye-boots thing. They kind of get to that point that all budding terrorists do, where they're starting to cross the line and there's no turning back. They're kind of inept but potentially dangerous. The movie's about terrorist-chic and how these people can become glamourized and how idealism can get out of hand. It's about becoming that which you previously hated.

Outlooks: You are one of a handful of gay Canadian celebrities; mind if I toss some names out and get your reaction to them?

LaBruce: Oh, God! Okay, go ahead.

Outlooks: Scott Thompson.

LaBruce: He's hilarious—he's a good friend of mine.

Outlooks: Svend Robinson.

LaBruce: Um... I'm not really into assimilationist politics.

Outlooks: Ashley MacIsaac.

LaBruce: I've actually French-kissed Ashley and hung out with him before. He's one of these creative geniuses that go into a very dark place and have to find their way out. I think he's doing that; I hear he has a new album so I'm sure he'll be fine.

Outlooks: Carole Pope.

LaBruce: I've only met her a couple of times but I was a big Rough Trade fan and anyone who would have a song on the *Cruising* soundtrack is okay in my books.

Outlooks: And last but not least, Bruce LaBruce.

LaBruce: A-ha-ha! I dunno... what can I say? I'm just struggling to get by like anybody else. ▼

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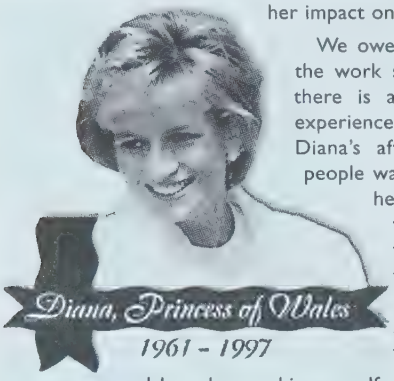
An enduring royal legacy

By Robert Andrews

LOOKING BACK

Reprinted from October 1997

The dust and mayhem following Princess Diana's tragic death and funeral seems to have settled somewhat. My shock the night of her death and tears throughout the funeral has led to a reflection about her impact on HIV/AIDS and our lives.



We owe Princess Diana enormous gratitude for the work she has done for our cause. However, there is also a wider connection between her experience and the gay community. I think that Diana's affinity with disadvantaged groups and people was no coincidence. It came directly from her own life experiences, difficult times and feeling a lack of worthiness. She not only felt compassion for people and communities, but a connection to them. Part of her legacy is in the charity trusts that she represented, but we also have a great deal to learn from her experience.

I have been asking myself a couple of questions in the wake of her death. What was it that was so special about Diana that gave her such a connection to people? Why was there a need for her experience to have been so hard? And why do the biggest leaps and bounds in AIDS awareness and compassion have to be satisfied through our collective addiction to celebrity and fame?

Diana's marriage and public life began in 1981, very close to the beginning of the epidemic; she has lived and grown through it. Her work with HIV was part of her growth, and her learning to stand up for herself. There was still a widespread reaction of fear and panic around HIV when, in 1987, she reached out and touched someone living with AIDS in front of the international media. It was no secret that the Palace would have preferred her to stick to being the patron of local cricket clubs. She shocked the world, and with one touch did more for awareness, compassion and respect for people living with HIV than anyone before her. She also picked up babies with AIDS under the spotlight of the ever-present media, and Diana took her sons to the bedside of friends living with AIDS. Against all advice, she broke the ground of silence and isolation around HIV in the public realm. We are now finding out that she also continued this work out of the public spotlight and under the cover of darkness.

She was our friend.

June Callwood wrote last month in *MacLean's* about a 1991 visit by Diana to the Casey House hospice in Toronto. Callwood paints a picture of Diana as flawed (or human) like everyone, but full of inherent goodness, "The quality in her that millions recognized instinctively and now mourn so deeply was her gritty, whole-hearted struggle to live a valuable life."

By pulling her chair up close and taking someone's hand in hers for a media session at Casey House, she changed our lives in our communities. But then wandering from room to room and bed to bed, without any media present, she also changed individual lives. This ability to affect people individually as well as by the thousands speaks to her sincerity and was part of her gift. I think that I have taken this kind of work and the resulting change in public reaction to HIV for granted. She was the first and best spokesperson for those living with HIV that I remember, and for that I would like to thank her.

Next, I think that we have a great deal to learn from Diana. She fought a long and hard battle to overcome challenges and live out her morals and values in her everyday life. Her brother said that in doing "good works" she found she could "release herself from deep feelings of unworthiness".

In the glare of the public eye, she has battled a doomed marriage, eating disorders, battles with (to say the least) a stubborn family and set of protocols. Throughout her growth, she has been plagued by unhappiness. She has dealt with a constant parade of detractors within the British establishment and the media, suggesting that she is a threat to traditional institutions and values, and self-indulgent in asserting her right to make her own choices and seek happiness.

I have also noticed an undercurrent in a number of news articles since her death. Some have softly criticized her for standing up for her personal health and happiness, her choice in men, her modernization of the role of a royal. In short, Diana bravely challenged establishment roles and rules, and spent a great deal of her public life paying a price for growing into a stronger woman. There are lessons to be learned here. She challenged traditional roles with integrity and, while she continues to face critics even after her death, her memory will be recorded by those who saw strength. Eventually, goodness will be seen and recognized. In this sense, she will continue to be a role model for many.

AIDS CALGARY

The broad appeal of her story is that it is a mirror for so many people to hold up and see their experiences and struggles lived out on a larger stage, to examine their lives. Hers is a lesson in life, that while the challenges make us stronger they don't easily go away. Although she was inspirational and seemed to be finally pulling it all together, she continued to struggle with isolation and family, traditional roles and expectations as a woman, wife and mother. She was still fighting to be seen as a woman in her own right, rather than as a label, a role, or an expectation (ie: the mother of a future king).

In relation to HIV/AIDS, the questions that I am left with may be unanswerable. Why did Diana's touch do more in a second than half a million public health messages? Would it have been possible if she wasn't so physically beautiful? What does this say about us all? Why does it take the HIV diagnosis of Magic Johnson or Arthur Ashe to make so many sit up and take notice or see themselves at risk? (I think the deaths of Liberace and Rock Hudson only created media frenzy.) In this case, part of the reason is homophobia, but how much bigger is it? And what does it say about where we are going? I am questioning the cost, both to a society of people at street level and to the celebrity messenger, of our addiction to fame and celebrity to bring home messages for us. I don't have answers for these.

The eulogizing about Diana's incomparable beauty and good work during the week between her death and the funeral was almost overwhelming. Since then, I have been troubled by the focus on the details rather than the big picture. The lessons that I see in Diana's tragic death are to accept the things that she gave us with grace, and learn from the lessons of her life as part of a lasting legacy, especially in the fight against HIV and AIDS. ▼

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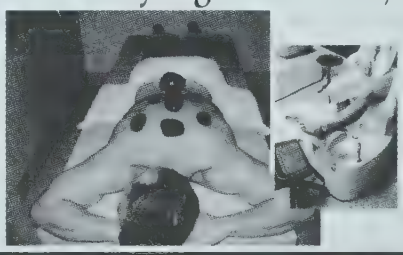

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A chat with Cho

By Lino Di Nallo

A job-related perk of interviewing celebrities is often free passes to pertinent events. So after arranging a phone interview with Margaret Cho, I was pleased as punch when her publicist garnered me tickets to the Toronto performance of her Assassin tour several weeks ago. The lobby was laden with hairy, lisping men and gorgeous fag hags (my fag hag, Bessy, insisted I use that specific adjective), and our seats were priceless. While Cho's show still honours her Korean heritage and an affinity for "fisting faggots", her humour and message has definitely gotten more political. But every time the conversation revolved around Bush and America's "state of the union", my eyes glazed over, just a little. No slight to Cho: I've just resigned myself to the fact that *every* government is corrupt, I'm not a politically charged person, and I have minimal passion for politics (to think I used to be class president). But I do, at least, exercise my right to vote.

Margaret Cho—flinger of bonnets and bon mots

Still, Margaret Cho is a well-regarded and influential person, especially in the gay community, so I was elated to speak with her recently. And although she was on break from the tour, it was clear a very busy life still went on…

Outlooks: So, taking a break from the tour, what are you up to? Relaxing?

Cho: Actually, I'm working on the edit for my film, *Bam Bam and Celeste*. I'm also doing a couple of shows that are not part of the tour, and I'm finishing up a book I'm writing called, *I Have Chosen To Stay in The Fight*, that's due out in the fall.

Outlooks: What's it about?

Cho: Politics. There are a lot of essays about the political year, religion, and the gist of what's happening in the political landscape. It's similar to what I'm doing in my show but covers different material. It's a big project.

Outlooks: Is it comedic?

Cho: It's a lot of…"dramedy".

Outlooks: When's *Bam Bam and Celeste* coming out?

Cho: Probably in about six months…I'm not sure. We just finished cinematography

Outlooks: Is there going to be a big gala opening?

Cho: I'm sure there will be, but I don't know when.

Outlooks: Whom would you want to wear?

Cho: I don't know! I'm not big on designers, I don't really know what is what.

Outlooks: So you're not a label whore?

Cho: *Not* a label whore! Only if I get it for free, which is rare. They're so tight-fisted nowadays with the samples. Maybe I'll make something.

Outlooks: Sounds like you retain your family's working-class values?

Cho: Yeah, I'm totally cheap…and thrifty…and miserly. I mean, you never know what's going to happen, and I'm not an ostentatious person. I'm not glitzy; I don't have a lot of bling. That's my style.

Outlooks: Looking back on your career, I first saw you on *Comic Strip Live* as a teenager. You imitated your drunken mom singing Patsy Cline. You cut your teeth on your family, and now politics. Any idea where you're going next?

Cho: I think now it's a personal outlook on the way we are living. I'd like to stay in politics—it's a really important and fun area to look at…but I'm getting older and I'm experiencing life differently, as an older person.

Outlooks: Do you ever feel like you get pigeonholed with doing "mommy"?

Cho: No—she is definitely part of my life, and kind of what my "Asian-ness" is about. I don't think I'll have an opportunity to lose that part of me. And I don't want to. It's a good thing.

Outlooks: Now, you're writing a book. But what are you reading right now?

Cho: I read really weird stuff. I'm on this Ottoman Empire kick, so I've been reading about the Seraglios and the big harems that sultans would have. I *love* dictators. I'm reading this book called *Blood And Splendor*, which is all about dictators like Nero, Ivan The Terrible and Hitler. I'm obsessed with Nero. He's so weird because he always thought of himself as a singer first. Weird, weird, *weird*. I love history; it's so fascinating. Oh, and I read books about quilting.

Cho's never been one to shy away from onstage exuberance

Outlooks: Quilting?

Cho: Yeah, I'm a "fibre artist." I like to make quilts and things like that. I've used different kimono fabrics, but I'm really into Indian fabrics like sari georgettes, which are very hard to work with.

Outlooks: Are you familiar with Calgary? *Outlooks* is based out of Calgary…

Cho: Yes, but I don't know when I've been there.

Outlooks: Well, Alberta is basically Canada's Texas. It's where many Conservatives live, and seems to be the only Canadian province that's all "rah-rah George Bush". I was curious if you knew anything about it or what you might have to say.

Cho: I think that's odd…Canada seems like such a liberal, progressive country. It's like "The Ideal", compared to the U.S., where people actually *do* pay attention to constitution and they do have rights and they are expected. I didn't realize that you have a conservative side. I guess there has to be.

Outlooks: Yeah…it's where all our cattle ranches are; the only place in Canada you'll see cowboys with gun racks [I realize I'm generalizing here], and the only province opposed to gay marriage. I was curious to ask because I know you're a big fan of Canada.

Cho: I am.

Outlooks: Now, I read a quote about interviewing funny people, and it said not to try and be funnier than them. Do you get that a lot?

Cho: I think people act differently towards me than they would towards other comedians because I'm not "ha-ha funny" in person. I think people are more reserved or serious with me.

Outlooks: Do you think you take yourself too seriously?

Cho: I *never* take myself too seriously, because that's just dumb. But I do take the world seriously, if that makes sense. And politics. And I take my values seriously.

Outlooks: Now, you're married. But I've only heard it mentioned once on *David Letterman*. Maybe I don't watch enough TV, but you don't talk a lot about that. So here's my theory: you're totally blissfully happy and see no reason to discuss it.

Cho: Yeah. I'm happy in my marriage and to me it is a private thing…there's nothing public about my relationship. It's hard to talk about in a way that anybody would be interested in. It's very dull. If two people are happy, its like, "who cares?"

Outlooks: Can I ask about him?

Cho: Sure. His name is Al Ridenour. He's a comedian with a multimedia show called *The Art of Bleeding* [A quick Google search reveals *Art of Bleeding* as "a performance troupe dedicated to providing alarmingly unorthodox theatrical programs in safety education, first aid, and emergency preparedness,"]. He's a genius. And we've been married for two years and have a great thing because he's an also an artist committed to making the world a good place. That's a reason I'm committed to getting gay marriage legalized: I realized what marriage was and how great it is.

Outlooks: Is mom waiting for the kids?

Cho: Oh, definitely. And that's something that's possible, and that I'd like to do. We'll see. ▼

Lino DiNallo is a freelance writer, advertising copywriter, overlooked supermodel and sometimes memoirist living in Toronto

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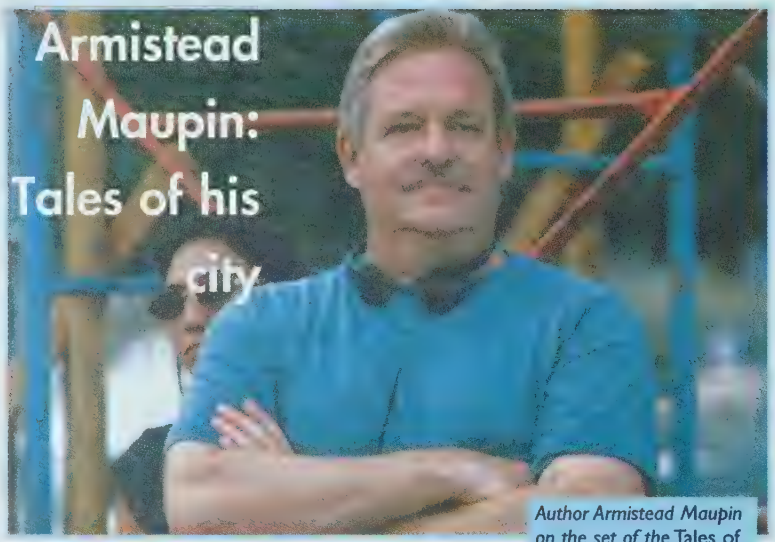
Armistead Maupin: Tales of his city



Author Armistead Maupin on the set of the Tales of the City *miniseries*

By David Crosson

LOOKING BACK

Reprinted from June 2003

When it comes to world-building, in gay literature he is our Tolkein. Twenty-seven years ago, author Armistead Maupin introduced readers to the denizens of Barbary Lane through a series of short stories for the *San Francisco Chronicle*. Two years later, in 1978, these were compiled into the seminal novel, *Tales of the City*, which subsequently spawned other novels and three miniseries starring Chloe Webb and Olympia Dukakis. This year, San Francisco Pride will focus on a number of significant silver anniversaries: the creation of the rainbow flag; the founding of the San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus; and the publication of the original *Tales of the City* novel, among them. As grand marshal for the 2003 Parade, author Armistead Maupin very graciously granted *Outlooks* a rare interview, in which he discusses his role in the community, the state of the U.S. and the very nature of Pride itself.

Outlooks: With so many milestones being celebrated in the community in 2003, it would appear that 1978 was a tremendous "catalyst" year; any thoughts on why you think this occurred?

Maupin: There was a lot "popping" that year—we had achieved a great deal of solidarity the year before when Anita Bryant launched the anti-gay campaign in south Florida, and there was also a man here named John Briggs who was trying to outlaw gay teachers. The local community had mobilized and that happened in conjunction with a great deal of fun and self-realization. You could feel the energy in the air in those days; it was a thrilling time to be gay and be here.

Outlooks: Do you feel it helps, then, when a diverse community has a common goal or enemy? Is that when people really put aside their differences and focus their attention on what matters most?

Maupin: I think, generally, those negative influences tend to be the things that make gay people get up off their butts and take a stand. Rosie O'Donnell was moved by Matthew Shepard, I know. It's a sad fact of life that we have to be under attack before we look at who we are and stand up for that.

Outlooks: As a long-term San Franciscan, how do you think the city has changed over the years?

Maupin: I get asked that question a lot—probably 'cause I'm so old! [Laughs] And I don't really have a ready answer for it. You know, anyone who is gay knows how the culture has changed over the last twenty or twenty-five years; the difference has been dramatic. Twenty-five years ago, when the Gay Men's Chorus was beginning to do its first national tour, there wasn't a single media outlet that would cover it, even though it clearly was an historic moment. The degree to which we have become "mainstreamed" is extraordinary.

Outlooks: Well, this truly is a diverse community—we have those who have entered the mainstream with great enthusiasm and then we have the so-called anti-assimilationists who want to maintain as many distinct elements of gay culture as possible; what are your thoughts on all this?

Maupin: As someone who's fought for years to achieve the ordinariness of gay life, I don't have much patience for people who are afraid of the mainstream. The mainstream is where we belong. I've always been a radical in the mainstream and I think you can do both. As a gay person, your job is to be yourself at all times and to show the rest of the world who you are and remain unashamed about that. It's the single greatest contribution an individual can make. And I suspect that a lot of people who decry the "mainstreaming" of things hate losing the little duchys they've established for themselves in the gay community.

Outlooks: Do you think that, this many years on, Pride celebrations are still relevant for the community?

Maupin: There are a number of elements that come together on that weekend and one of them is to have fun with a bunch of people just like you. That makes it easier for younger people and closeted people to experience the freedom of being themselves. And I think there'll always be a place for it. I'm a wee bit jaded about it [after so many years in San Francisco] but I always find something to celebrate and some source of joy on that day. I had a great time last year when my friend Ian McKellen was grand marshal—we just walked around and saw the sights together. It's surprising how many cute, young men want to kiss Gandalf and/or Magneto!

Outlooks: I don't imagine he complained too much about that.

Maupin: Oh, he didn't complain at all! [Laughs]

Outlooks: You mentioned Rosie O'Donnell earlier—as someone prominent in the gay community, do you feel it's important for other high-profile members to become involved or stand up and be counted?

Maupin: Absolutely. That's all I've ever asked of my famous friends—and I often lose friends because they don't want to fulfill their obligations. There are a number of people I've met over the years who've gone screaming into the night as soon as I express my opinion in that regard. Of those who've achieved a great amount of public visibility, the people I respect the most are the ones who have been honest in that way. What good is fame and fortune if you can't be yourself in the process? Ian's a brilliant demonstration of that—he's just having a ball! He makes no bones about who he is wherever he appears and he's celebrated for it. I'm flabbergasted by the number of people who don't understand that your true self is your most attractive self. And often the most "successful" face you can present to the world.

Outlooks: Could you tell me a bit about how you are asked to become grand marshal for this year's Pride parade?

Maupin: [Laughs] I was just asked! I gather it had to do with the 25th anniversary of a lot of things, and I was around at that time. It's also the 25th anniversary of the publication of the *Tales of the City* book. The serial started in the [San Francisco] Chronicle in '76 and the book was published in '78.

Outlooks: Did you ever imagine the stature *Tales* would eventually achieve as you were writing those short stories for a newspaper?

Olympia Dukakis as Anna Madrigal in the Tales of the City *miniseries*

Maupin: Let's put it this way: I didn't dream that twenty-five years later the book would still be selling and people would want to celebrate me because of it.

Outlooks: It's one of our classics, really, and certainly was a breakthrough at the time. Tales made it out there at a point in history when, as you said, nobody would even write about the Gay Men's Chorus.

Maupin: Well, that's the thing—the younger generation of gay people don't really understand to what degree we were kept invisible in the culture. Until very recently, actually. It wasn't a matter of depicting gay sex on television; it was a matter of depicting gay people *at all*.

Outlooks: The gay community has much to celebrate at this point in history, but do you think, in your particular country, a step backward has been taken with the most recent political changing of the guard? Is it important for your compatriots to be especially vigilant and aware of their rights and freedoms under the current administration?

Maupin: Well, there's never been a time when we didn't have to be vigilant; even when we had a sympathetic president, as we did with Clinton, we had to hold him to his word. He had a way of going back on that from time to time! [Laughs] These new guys are such dinosaurs that we do have to be especially vigilant. The notion that John Ashcroft, this fascist "Robocop", was sent as our representative to France after we "won the war" is an obscenity on a Herculean scale!

Outlooks: It's refreshing to hear someone speaking so continued opposite

Canada's Gay Community Magazine

OUTLOOKS

Official National Pride Guide

JUNE 2005 FREE

out

IN THE COMMUNITY

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Rebuilding Strong Communities

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Pride Listings 2005

British Columbia

VANCOUVER

June

18th

Pancake Fundrasier

Oasis Lounge, 1240 Thurlow St. @ 10a.m. - 2p.m.
Also on July 16

Bring your morning appetite for pancakes with proceeds going to the Vancouver Pride Society.

25th

Stonewall Celebration

Grandview Park, Commercial Drive @ 11a.m. - 5p.m.

A one-day event featuring local artisans, community groups, and local entertainment. Attendance is free. Grandview Park is located in East Vancouver, right on Commercial Drive. Come on out and celebrate the 36th anniversary of the riots in Stonewall, New York!

Stonewall Dance

WISE Hall, Adanac Street @ 8p.m. - 1a.m.

An '80s retro dance held at the WISE Hall. DJ Carl Austin provides non-stop '80s tunes that keep attendees hopping until the wee hours of the morning. Cost of admittance: $5.00. Tickets sold at the door only.

July

23th

Picnic in the Park

Prospect Point Picnic Grounds, Stanley Park @ 11a.m. - 6p.m.

An afternoon of games, food and fun for the whole family held at the Prospect Point Picnic Grounds in Stanley Park. Event includes a beer garden and DJ'd stage. Attendance is free for the games and picnic. Beer garden entrance fee set at $2.00 each.

24th

Queer-coustic | Alexandra Bandshell

Pacific Avenue

July 24th, 25th, 26th, 28th and 29th @ 7p.m. to 8:30p.m.

A great way to spend a summer evening. This event is in its second year and is designed to showcase local entertainers and musicians from the GLBT community in the heart of the city. This is a nightly event where we play acoustic music. Attendance is free.

29th

Rapture 6 – Rapture Black

Pigalle Room, 1100 Granville St. @ 8p.m. – 2a.m. July 29

ToyBoxBoys Productions bring you the sixth edition of this widely anticipated event, and Vancouver's biggest party. Rapture Black brings you DJ Matthew Harvat and a live performance from Scott Bolton.

30th

Terry Wallace Memorial Breakfast

West End Community Centre

870 Denman Street @ 9a.m. - Noon

Now in its second year, a 'by donation' pancake breakfast at the West End Community Centre—a must-attend event to kick off the Pride Weekend. Get yourself a plate full of the best pancakes and sausages in town! $ 2.00 all-day underground pay parking available.

Rapture 6

Commodore Ballroom, 868 Granville St. @ 10p.m. - 5a.m. July 30

The sixth installment of Vancouver's largest gay dance event! Featuring a live performance by Circuit Mom (Chicago) and Derek Daniels Productions (Hawaii).

31st

Pride Parade and Festival 2005

Parade @ Noon to 2p.m. Festival @ 2p.m. - 10p.m.

The Vancouver Pride Parade kicks off starting on the corner of Denman and Alberni. From Denman, the parade will head down Beach Avenue until Sunset beach, where the Pride Festival will take place.

Rapture RECOVERY

Commodore Ballroom, 868 Granville St. @ 9p.m. - 6a.m.

After a hot day in the sun, time for a hot night of sin at Rapture RECOVERY—everyone's favourite party of the weekend. The party features performances and exhibitions throughout the night, including another Circuit Mom/Derek Daniels Productions performance.

CruiseyT Pride Denim & Leather Cruise

False Creek @ 5p.m. - 9p.m.

Climb on board with CruiseyT and special guests DJ Farshad Abasi & Iain on the Sax. For more CruiseyT Pride events, please visit www.cruiseyt.com

August

1st

Rapture MORNING PARTY

Location TBA @ 6a.m. - Noon

Join us for TBB's Rapture morning party, a refreshing way to end a beautiful weekend.

For more information regarding Vancouver Pride events, please go to www.vanpride.bc.ca

VICTORIA

June

26th

1st Annual Big Gay Dog Walk

Clover Point @ Noon - 3p.m.

Take your Shitzu, Golden Retriever or four-legged furry friend out for a day out at the park.

1st Annual Party Boat Cruise

Inner Harbour @ 7p.m. - 10 p.m.

Set sail and celebrate Pride by watching the sun go down. The ship boards at 6:45p.m. sharp below the Wharfside Eatery. Admission is $30.

July

3rd

11th Annual Victoria Pride Parade & Festival

Parade on Government Street @ Noon

Festival at Fisherman's Wharf Park @ 1p.m. - 6p.m.

For more information regarding Victoria Pride events, please go to www.victoriapridesociety.org

SURREY

July

8th

Pride in Your PJ's—A Pride Five Pin Bowling Night

Dell Bowling Lanes - 9p.m. - 1a.m.

Strike, split or gutterball the night away where prizes for the most original and outrageous costumes will be awarded. Net profits will go to the AIDS Tijuana Project.

Price will be determined depending on the number of participants and please do not register later than July 4th.

9th

1st Annual Pride Fair

Days Hotel West Fraser Ballroom 1p.m. - 4p.m.

Many businesses and organizations will be on hand to celebrate in the fairground-like atmosphere of Surrey's first Pride Fair.

Cost for booths is $30 for businesses and $15 for non-profit organzations.

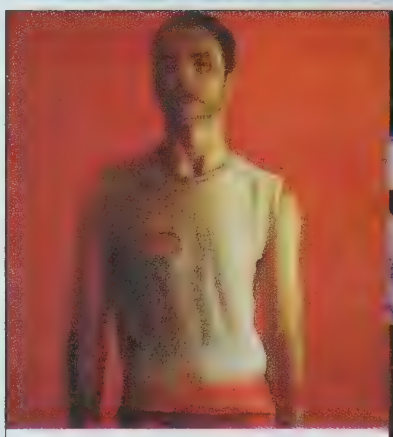
Pride in our Hearts Pageant & Pride Dance

Days Hotel West Fraser Ballroom 8p.m. - 11p.m.

Followed by a Pride High Energy Dance. Tickets $10 available in advance and $15 at the door.

Net Proceeds from the day will go to the Surrey Youth Alliance and the Youth Scholarship Fund.

For more information regarding BC Pride events, please go to:
www.gaysurrey.com
www.gaycanada.com/okanagan-pride
www.nanaimopride.org



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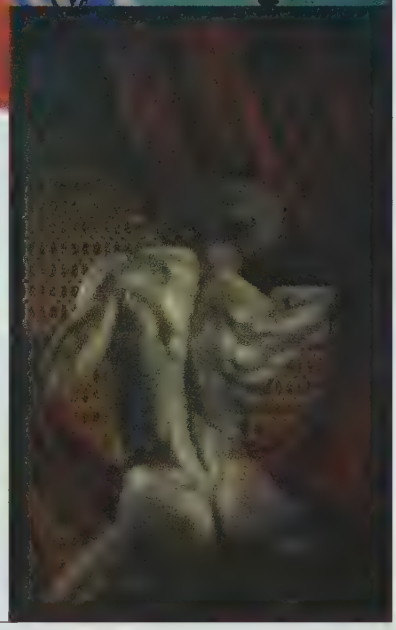

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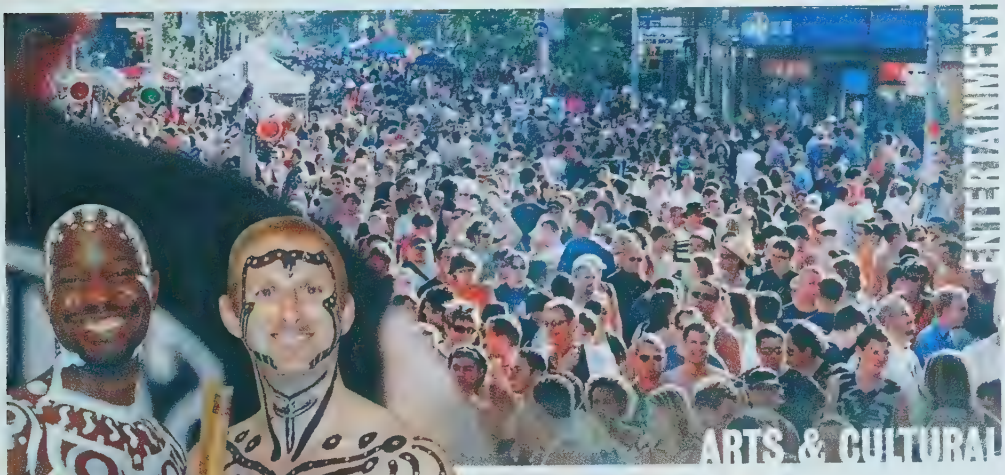

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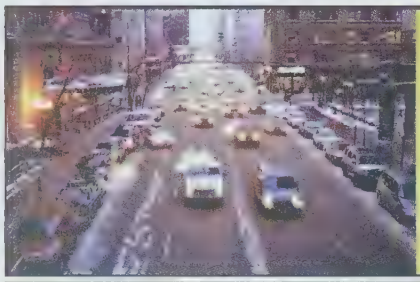

Pride Listings 2005

Alberta

CALGARY

June

1st

Quab Gallery - Pride Showcase

#212, 100 - 7th ave SW @ Monday - Friday 10a.m. - 6p.m., Saturday Noon - 6p.m. and Sundays by appointment.

Until June 26. Vernissage June 2nd.

The west wing of Quab gallery will be dedicated to Quab's first gay Pride show. Images that celebrate sexuality and gay subculture will be central to this exhibit featuring collected works from Quab's artists from Quebec and Alberta. Showcased artists include Mychael Maier, Yvon Goulet, Jarret Quinn, Simon Bournival, Grant Cunningham, Jorde English and Martin Douvil.

7th Annual Fairytales International Gay & Lesbian Film Festival

Uptown Stage and Screen 612 - 8th ave SW

Until June 2, view feature and short films from gay and lesbian filmmakers from around the world. For more info, visit www.fairytalesfilmfest.com

4th

Kitty Group Pride Coffee Night

Good Earth Cafe - 1502 - 11 St. SW @ 7p.m.

Celebrate your pride at the Kitty Group monthly coffee night - a casual get together for lesbians.

Celebrating Community

Money-Pennies 1742 - 10th Ave. SW@ 7p.m. Also on June 16 at Metro.

Putting the Fun in Fundraiser! Come shmooze at this event being hosted by Money-Pennies and GLCSA. Events include a silent auction, 50/50 draws, food, and cash bar all benefitting the GLCSA.

Another GLCSA fundraiser will be held at METRO The Club at 213 - 10 Ave. SW on June 16th @ 7 p.m. More info at www.glcsa.org

5th

Celebration Pride - 15 Years - The Beginning

METRO The Club 213 - 10 Ave. SW @ 10:30p.m. and 12:30a.m.

Come out to one or both viewings of the Pride Calgary Fundraising Drag Show complete with shooter bar.

6th

Expressions of Pride: Art Show

Money-Pennies 1742 - 10th Ave. SW@ 7p.m.

View some incredible works of art by artists Jorde English, Lisa Heinricks, Terry Winter, Jarret Quinn and more. Live music by Barbara Will and Jerald Blackstock.

11th

Xist 2005

Stampede Park, Hall D, Round Up Centre @8p.m.

Pride Calgary is excited to announce not just a Pride Dance but Calgary's newest Circuit Party, Xist 2005 . Held once again in Hall D of the Round Up Centre, Stampede Park . From 8pm until 2am dance to 3 DJs spinning a variety of music. DJ STARE will be starting at 8, spinning the usual retro, top 40 and R 'n' B. Then DJ Jay Fraid will take the helm with his mix of house music at 10:30, then segue into DJ Marc Tattoo, from Vancouver, to his mix of roof-raising energy music and then DJ STARE coming back at 1:30 to close off the night with some disco house, electro house and trance to take us home.

Over 10,000 sq. ft. of music, lights and hot go-go dancers on several feature stages. Tickets on sale at your favourite establishments and at the door, only $20.00 for the BEST party of the year. Will you Xist?

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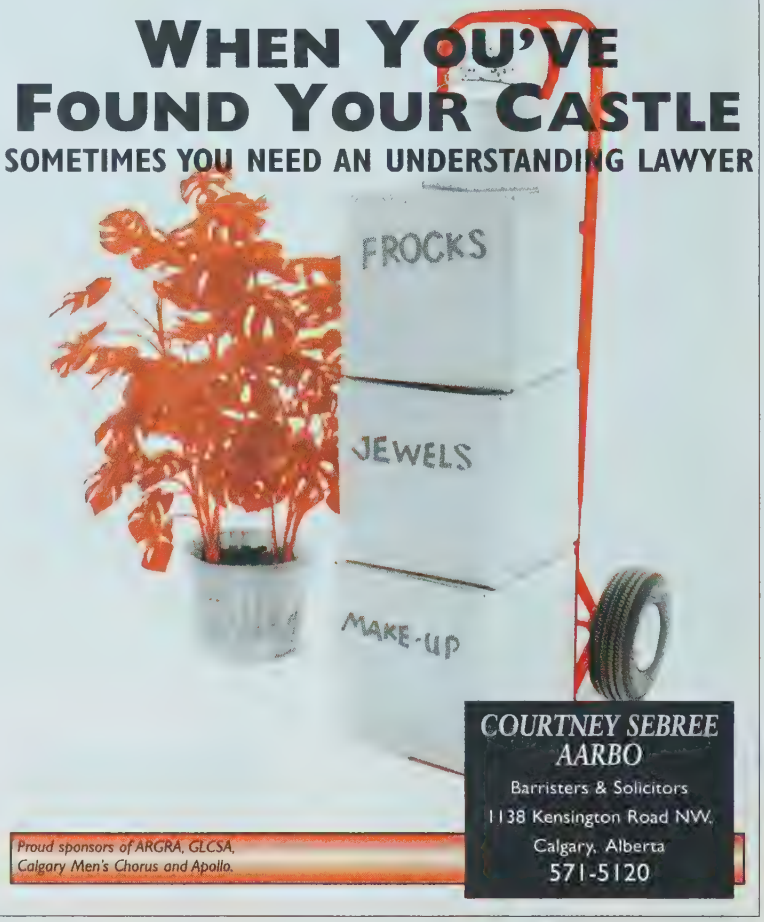

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12th

Pride Parade

17th ave SW from 2 St. SW to 12 St. SW @ Noon

Whether you are in the Parade or want to watch it go by, 17 Ave. SW is the place to be. The Pride Parade will depart from 2 St. SW at 12 noon, head westbound along 17 Ave. to 12 St. SW. So come on out and jump in!

Street Festival

Tomkins Park 17 Ave. and 8 St. SW @ 1p.m.

After the fabulous and flamboyant Pride Parade travels along down 17th Avenue, the Pride Street Festival kicks into high gear at Tomkins Park and goes until 5p.m.

Many businesses and not-for-profit organizations market their wares and promote themselves to the thousands of people in attendance. This is a great place to make face-to-face contact with members and supporters of the community.

There will be lots of entertainment and great music, a fabulous way to spend a June afternoon in the park.

Backlot After Parade Party

209 - 10 Ave. SW. @ 2p.m.

The party is far from being over! Join us at the Backlot for a BBQ and bring your Pride Dance ticket and get happy hour specials.

Money Pennies After Parade Party

1742 - 10th Ave. SW @ 3p.m.

Join us on our patio for a snack and drinks to cool down the hot summer day. Rain or shine, it will still be a hell of a time.

17th

Prance

Knox Centre 506 - 4th St. SW @ 7p.m.

Couldn't get into some of the Pride events because you're not of legal age to drink? Don't fret, come out to the GLSCA non-alchoholic youth Pride dance for individuals up to twenty-five years old.

Tickets are $5 with a non-perishiable food item and $7 without a non-perishable food item. Tickets available at GLSCA, Solar Cafe and Soda.

For more information regarding Calgary Pride events, please go to www.pridecalgary.ca

EDMONTON

June

17th

Queer City Cinema present: White Light Tour 2005

Queer film and video 1940s – 1990s

Winnipeg, Saskatoon, Edmonton

Thursday, June 16 & Friday, June 17

Presented by Latitude 53 Gallery at Metro Cinema Citadel Theatre

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ALL SCREENINGS @ 7:30 AND 9:30 PM. tickets, passes, & programs at the door

Online program: queercitycinema.ca

Pride Awards and Flag Raising

City Hall @ 7p.m.

Edmonton kicks off their Pride celebrations with the Annual Pride Awards and the raising of the Pride flag at City Hall.

Some of the award categories include: The Michael Phair Award, to an individual gay man for long-term contribution to the LGBTQ community and The Maureen Irwin Award, to an individual lesbian woman for long-term contribution to the LGBTQ community. A reception will follow the event.

18th

Parade Day

Oliver Arena @ 2p.m.

Starting from Oliver Arena, the parade goes to Jasper Ave. and ends at Sir Winston Churchill Square and 99 St.

After the parade, a business fair and beer gardens will be on hand at Sir Winston Churchill Square, with entertainment from Edmonton's Pride Squad and special guests Cheer San Francisco.

There will also be a Unity Dance at the Canadian Hellenic Hall at 10450 - 116 St.

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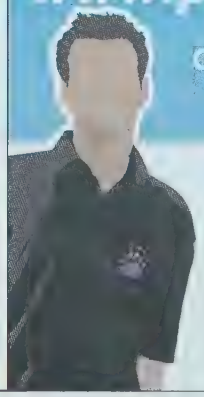

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20th

Pride Community & the Police Commission & the Police Service

City Hall @ 5p.m.

A reception hosted by Councillor Michael Phair and everyone is invited.

23rd

Edmonton Vocal Minority Presents: *One World, Many Voices*

Provincial Museum of Alberta Theatre - 12845 - 102 Ave. @ 8p.m.

With The Derivative Duo Provincial Museum of Alberta Theatre. Tickets are $12/$10 and more info can be found at (780) 479-2038.

24th

Acts Of Pride

La Cité Francophone - 8627 - 91 St. @ 7p.m.

Featuring The Derivative Duo, Bryce Kulak and many more!

Pride Dance 2005

Citadel Theatre Sir Winston Churchill Square @ 8p.m.

Get your groove on at this year's Pride Dance and keep it shaking until 2 a.m

Family Brunch & Penny Carnival

12120 Jasper Ave. @ 11a.m. - 2p.m.

Hosted by the The Big Fresh, bring out your family and a bucket of change for an afternoon of food and games!

For more information regarding Edmonton Pride events, please go to www.prideedmonton.org

LETHBRIDGE

16th

June

Lethbridge GALA's - 1st Family Picnic

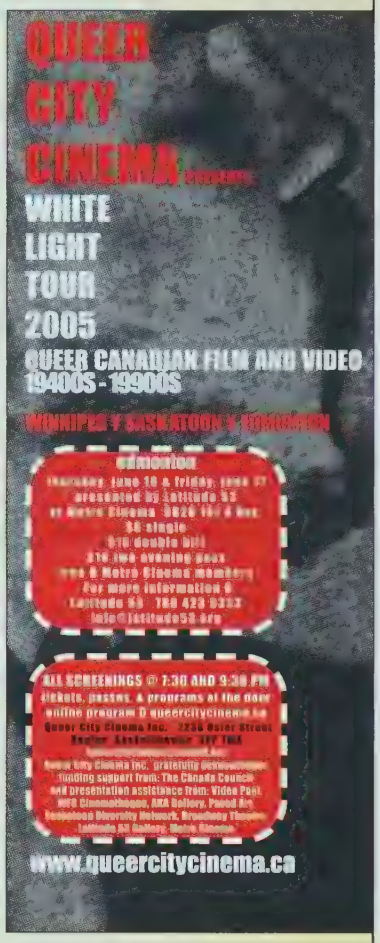
Pavan Park @ 6p.m. Until June 26. Vernissage June 2nd.

This picnic will be dedicated to discuss the positive aspects of homosexuality and the contributions of gays and lesbians to society.

Along with a BBQ, child daycare and other family activities, the event is set up to celebrate The National Day Against Homophobia.

This day shall be an opportunity to work on the positive aspects of homosexuality, and highlight the positive contribution of gays and lesbians to society.

For more information regarding Lethbridge Pride events, please go to www.gaylethbridge.com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Pride Listings 2005

Saskatchewan

SASKATOON

June

1st

Strange Desires: Lesbian and Gay Pulp Literature

Beyond the Link Gallery, 1st floor, University of Saskatoon Main Library, until June 30

For several years the University of Saskatchewan Library has participated in Saskatoon's annual Pride commemorations with exhibitions of materials dealing with gender and sexual diversity. Come look at the rich collections of both historic and contemporary publications dealing with the experiences of GLBT individuals.

9th

Scentbar: Fragrances for Troubled Times

The Spadina Freehouse @ 7p.m.

The Scentbar fragrance launch party welcomes the audience into a performance installation that provides a service, and a sense of participation in an exclusive consumer-cultural experience.

During the fragrance launch party, guests will have the opportunity to eat, drink, have a fragrance blended, try their scent on and mingle their perfumes.

Queer City Cinema 5 Tour

Broadway Theatre @ 7:30 & 9:30p.m. Also on June 10.

Queer City Cinema digs into the archival closet, presenting a series of four programs of historical Canadian queer film and video.

10th

Dance for Gramma

Diva's @ 10p.m.

The Court of Regina & All of Saskatchewan invites one and all to this comedy drag show. Come out to see the antics of the drag kings and queens of Saskatchewan, while helping to raise money for worthwhile Saskatchewan charitites.

For more information, contact Crystal Clear at crystalclear1998@sasktel.net. Cost for Diva's Members is $2 and guests is $7

11th

Hollywood Squares Drag Edition

Headquarters Pub @ 7p.m.

A night of good eats and game show entertainment for $10. Come and stay to be a potential contestant on Hollywood Squares. Half of the ticket price will be donated to the Court's chosen charities.

12th

Family Day in the Park

Ashworth Holmes Park @ 2p.m. - 6p.m.

Join us for an old-fashioned family picnic and an afternoon of arts and crafts, games and other activities with a turn-of-the-century feel. There will be a free BBQ with meat & veggie burgers, drinks and snacks. Fun for kids and grown-ups, too! Parking is available along side streets.

Bridge City Chorus Concert

Knox United Church @ 7:30p.m.

The Saskatoon Diversity Network is honoured to present Saskatoon's Bridge City Chorus in concert at Knox United Church. The Bridge City Chorus has graciously agreed to extend their season for one final show during Pride, and it's free. Hear your favourites, old and new, with beautiful acoustics.

13th

Flag-Raising Ceremony

City Hall @ 10:30a.m.

Join us to proclaim Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Trans Pride Week, and raise the rainbow flag in front of Saskatoon City Hall. A Pride tradition.

14th

Lipstick and Balls Pool Tournament

Q Room Billiards (Avenue Bldg. basement) @ 7:30p.m.

This Tuesday night pool tournament has become one of Pride's most successful and fun small events. Come to play for prizes or just to see what everyone's been talking about.

15th

Wizard of Oz

Friendship Park @ 10p.m.

Bring chairs or blankets and your fanciest Glinda costumes to this outdoor sing-along screening of *The Wizard of Oz*. Lyrics and concessions will be available.

18th

6th Annual Saskatchewan Pride Parade

Downtown Saskatoon @ 11a.m.

Saskatchewan's 6th provincial Pride Parade will once again be rolling, marching, dancing, and frolicking gaily through the streets of Saskatoon on Saturday, June 18. GLBTQ people, friends, families, and straight-but-not-narrow allies will gather from across the Prairies to celebrate diversity and show off our community's most glorious.

Community Fair

Kiwanis Park @ 11a.m. - 4p.m.

After the Parade, spend the afternoon at the Community Fair; browse booths from local craftspeople, businesses, and organizations, or relax with a burger and a drink in the beer garden.

Pride Dance 2105

Louis' @ 8p.m. - 2a.m.

All Centennial you've been hearing about life during the past 100 years—what about life 100 years from now? Louis' has one of the largest decks in Saskatoon, for two floors of fun and danceable music. Don't miss the biggest gay party of the year.

For more information regarding Saskatoon Pride events, please go to www.saskatoonpride.ca

MOOSE JAW

June

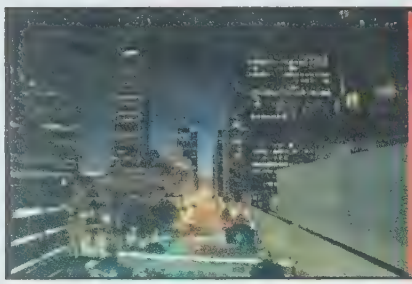
4th

Gay and Lesbian Association of Moose Jaw (GLAMj)

Pride 2005 Dance

Royal Canadian Legion 268 High Street West @ 8p.m.

Tickets $15 from GLAMj members, SDN & GLCR. For more info e-mail: glamj@hotmail.com



Pride Listings 2005

Manitoba

WINNIPEG

June

1st

Pride Flag Raising

City Hall 510 Main St. @ Noon

Once again, we will start the Winnipeg Pride celebrations by raising the Pride flag at City Hall. Civic leaders and other public officials, dignitaries, members of Winnipeg's GLBT community as well as the general public will attend the ceremony.

3rd

Love on the Boat - WhatWomynWant Boat Cruise

Gio's and the Paddlewheel Queen | Party starts at Gio's. Bus departarts at 9p.m. Boat launches at 10p.m.

A wonderfully romantic and unique women's event well received each year as one of a select number of events held for women in Winnipeg. Dance the night away to DJ Ian. Tickets available at Gio's for $20. Details available on www.gios.ca.

4th

Pitch for Pride - Batter up!

Assiniboine Park @ 10a.m. - dusk. Also on June 5.

Play ball! Everyone welcome. No dress code. No gender rules from first base all the way to home plate. Registration is $50 per team. For more information or to register email damien_jade@yahoo.com or phone Damien at 789-9709.

Desire's Kids Karnival

Club Desire - 441 Main Street @ Noon - 3p.m.

Children from parents of any sexual orientation are welcome at this funfest, with the ticket price including free hot dogs, pop, grab bags and a cornucopia of prizes such as videos, DVDs and movie passes.

Cost is $5 per person with $1 donated to The Childrens Hospital Foundation.

5th

Reel Pride Film Screening

IMAX Theatre - 3rd Floor Portage Place

The Winnipeg Gay and Lesbian Film Society, Inc. presents D.E.B.S (@7:30p.m.) and Eating Out (@ 9:30p.m.) for your viewing enjoyment at Pride Week!

8th

Rally at the Legislature

Manitoba Legislative Grounds (Broadway Ave. and Memorial Blvd.) @ 12:30p.m.

Before you march in the Pride Parade, you need to get pumped up. Join the Pride Rally on the steps of the Manitoba Legislative Building for motivational speakers and music to raise your sprits.

12th

Pride Parade

Historic Downtown Winnipeg @ 1p.m.

Calling all floats! Truckers, trykers, bikers, bladers and marchers, rev up for this year's parade. Prizes for Best Floats and Costumes!

Pride Festival & Fair

Legislative Grounds (Memorial Park) @ Noon - 5p.m.

The Festival Fair and Market is shaping up to be the biggest one ever. Here you can meet with the organizers of community groups; sample wares from local artists, crafts-people, and merchants; and meet some of the businesses that work in and with the GLBT community.

Pride Cabaret - An Evening of Circus Masquerade

The Pyramid Cabaret @ 7:30p.m.

Pride's most colourful party returns to the Pyramid.

A perfectly extravagant event to finish off Pride Week. Ringmasters, animals, clowns and adult circus performers—just call it Winnipeg's Cirque du Arc-en-ciel (Circus of the Rainbow).

Live entertainment and dancing, with a frisky twist! Hosted by Smallgirl and Musical host Suss. Of course, there will be dancing after the show.

Cocktails in the Trees

62 Evanson Street @ 7p.m. - 10:30p.m.

Don your brightest rainbow colours for an evening of smart cocktails, sharp food, and live entertainment at the loft and roof deck of 62 Evanson Street.

For tickets ($25 with a $15 tax receipt), contact the Rainbow Resource Centre at 474-0212 or Chris Vogel at 772-8215.

For more information regarding Winnipeg Pride events, please go to www.gaypridewinnipeg.com

Pride Listings 2005

Ontario

TORONTO

June

20th

Pride Flag Raising

City Hall

Set the week off right by watching the Pride flag raised at City Hall.

6th Annual Zipperz/Cellblock Pride Staff Show

72 Carlton St. @ 11p.m.

Head over to Zipperz Cellblock for a fundraiser with proceeds going to Pride Toronto.

21st

Pride 25 Awards Gala + Dinner

The Sutton Place Hotel 955 Bay Street (at Wellesley) @ 6p.m.

Hosted by stand up comic and TV star Elvira Kurt, the evening is planned to feature such prominent dignitaries as Mayor David Miller, Federal Minister of Defense Bill Graham, MPP George Smitherman and MPP Kathleen Wynne.

ThunderPride

Zipperz/Cellblock 72 Carlton St. @ 11p.m.

Celebrate with special guests The Legendary Michelle Ross, The Electric Sofonda Cox. Dance, dance, dance until the wee hours of the morning.

22nd

Foofer's Super Karaokee

Zipperz/Cellblock 72 Carlton St. @ 11p.m.

Clear your throat and become more Kelly Clarkson than William Hung with over 8,000 songs and a state-of-the-art sound system to back you up.

23rd

Revelation

Zipperz/Cellblock 72 Carlton St. @ 10p.m.

Where it's at! Bumpin' grooves and grindin' hips are sure to be on display with DJ Cory Activiate with his two turntables and a microphone.

24th

Goddess Hilarious

Zipperz/Cellblock 72 Carlton St. @ 8p.m.

Count 'em, one, two, three events in one night:

Bombshell '05: with Sofonda Cox, Chris Edmwards, Jeanette Dupree and Jackae Baker @ 6p.m. - 8p.m.

Dance Under the Stars: Beer garden party with Toronto's top DJs @ 8p.m. - 11p.m.

Pride Review Party: with DJ Cory Activate and pianist Greg Beer @ 10p.m. - 4a.m.

Zelda's Pride Celebration

S - 542 Church Street @TBA. Also on June 25 and 26.

Join the fun in Toronto's 25th Pride anniversary at Zelda's with a bevy of parties and activities leading up to Pride day. Check back at www.zeldas.ca for more info.

25th

The Community Fair and The Marketplace

Downtown Toronto @ 11a.m. Also on June 26.

The Pride Toronto Community Fair provides activists, community and non-profit groups with a public forum to explain their role in our community, educate about their mission, recruit volunteers and garner support for their cause.

The Pride Toronto Marketplace allows vendors, artisans and businesses large and small a wonderful space to exhibit and sell their wares, services, products and marketing support to our community.

Family Pride

Located in the Church Street Junior Public School (on the southeast corner of Church Street and Alexander Street) @ 11a.m. Also on June 26.

This child-friendly, interactive space provides an oasis for families of all kinds. Family Pride features crafts, games, children's entertainment and face painting as well as on-site daycare on the Saturday and Sunday of Pride Weekend.

The Dyke March

North on Church St., west onto Bloor St., then turning south on Yonge St. @ 2p.m.

The March is for women only; however, men are encouraged to support from the sidelines. The Dyke March event creates an informative, healing, positive, joyous space that increases understanding and appreciation of ourselves, each other, and our community.

26th

Pride Parade

The Pride Parade will commence at the corner of Bloor Street East at Church Street, moving westward to Yonge Street, proceeding south on Yonge Street to Dundas, moving eastward to finish at Church & Dundas Streets. @ 2p.m.

This year's theme is Pride: 25 years and counting! Let's see a colourful and flamboyant celebration at the 25th year of Toronto's Pride Week celebrations.

The Pride Parade will be headlined by Canadian artists Carole Pope and Rough Trade.

Beer Garden Events

Zipperz/Cellblock 72 Carlton St. @ Noon

The party will hopefully never end with another trio of events:

Girlz From Cellblock "C" - with Miss Zipperz'05, Chris Edwards, Jeanette Dupree, Jackae Baker @ 5:30p.m. - 8p.m.

Dance Under the Stars - Beer garden party with Toronto's top DJ's @ 8p.m. - 11p.m.

Ultimate Pride Dance Party with DJ Alain and pianist Kendall@ 10p.m. - 4a.m.

For more information regarding Toronto Pride events, please go to www.pridetoronto.com

CAIMBRIDGE | KITCHENER | WATERLOO

June

2nd

The Miss Tri-PridePageant

Club Renaissance, 24 Charles Street W., Kitchener @ 10:30p.m.

Be there as Miss Tri-Pride is crowned at the very first Tri-Pride pageant. Anticipate, substantiate, congratulate or participate.

3rd

Pride Fire

Columbia Lake, Waterloo @ 9p.m. - Midnight

Come sit under the stars with a roaring fire and the standard campfire foods for roasting. All you need to bring is a blanket or lawn chair. There will be an interactive drumming circle as part of this year's event, so feel free to bring an instrument of your choice or just sit back and enjoy the lively rhythms.

4th

Pride's 10th Anniversary Theme Night

Club Renaissance and The Robin's Nest

Plan to attend at either location for a fun-filled evening as we celebrate a decade of Pride by grooving to the music from the 1970s, '80s and '90s .

5th

Pride Day

Victoria Park, Kitchener @ Noon - 8p.m.

Ashley MacIsaac will be on hand to take part in the festivities, which include silent auction, vendor market, BBQ, beer garden and children's area.

Come out to celebrate Tri-Pride's 10th Anniversary!

HAMILTON

June

11th

Hamilton Pride Casino

The Werx - 121 Hughson St. North @ 8p.m. - 1a.m.

Go all-in or bust in the Hamilton Pride Casino presented by The Imperial Court of Hamilton-Wentworth

12th

Sing-a-long *Wizard of Oz*

The Werx - 121 Hughson St. North @ 2p.m.

Bring your inner Judy Garland with you to a free presentation of the *Wizard of Oz*.

Hamilton Pride Drag Extravaganza

The Embassy - 54 King St. East @ 10p.m. - 1a.m.

It's a drag, it's an extravaganza and it's free.

13th

Flag Day

Hamilton City Hall - 71 Main St. West. Time TBA.

Put on your rainbow colours because the rainbow flag will be raised on the steps of City Hall in celebration of Hamilton Pride.

13th

Rent: The Musical

The Werx - 121 Hughson St. North @ 9p.m.
Also on June 15.

Friends of The Tivoli Theatre presents the modern day version of the opera *La Boheme*, set in New York's East Village about a group of artists struggling to survive, but still celebrating life. Admission is $10 and all proceeds go to The AIDS Network.

14th

Pass-Da-Pride: All You Can Eat Pasta Fundraiser

The Werx - 121 Hughson St. North @ 5-8p.m.

Holy cannelloni! If your appetite is as big as your Pride, bring it to the all-you-can-eat-fest along with $10 with proceeds going to The AIDS Network.

16th

Gala Reception: Annual Pride Awards

Sheraton Hotel - 116 King St. West @ 7p.m.-10p.m.

Meet and greet with some of the brightest Pride members of the year! This year's categories include: Pride Citizen of the Year, Pride Youth of the Year, Pride Group of the Year and Pride Business of the Year.

18th

Parade Day

Pre-Parade Breakfast

The Comfortable Pew - 24 Main St. West @ 9a.m. -11a.m.

March in the parade with pride and with a full stomach before heading out to the rally.

The rally will take place at 11:30 a.m. and the march at noon with the locations TBA.

Parade Activities

Canada Marine Discovery Centre - 57 Guise St. East @ Noon - 6p.m.

There will be something for everyone with a festival, marketplace, food and beverage garden, The Imperial Court of Hamilton-Wentworth presenting entertainment and Molson Canadian presenting Werx Idol. Come one, come all!

Then, head out to the official after-party at The Werx.

For more information regarding Hamilton Pride events, please go to www.hamiltonpride.com

WINDSOR

July

24th

Pride Festivities

Various locations @ TBA

Head out to Charles Clark Square for the the Pride Festival before the Parade. But keep your energy up for the "Pride 2005 Survival Party" at the Complex.

For more information regarding Windsor Pride events, please go to www.gaywindsor.com/pride

Pride Listings 2005

Quebec

MONTRÉAL

July

25th

Divers/Cité Night Parade

Location and Time TBA

Kicking off Pride celebrations, Montréal's Divers/Cité will be celebrating their 13th annual parade. Adding to the already eclectic and electric atmosphere of the Montréal community, the night parade is bound to be one of the more unique celebrations in Canada.

26th

Songspiel: Electronic Cabaret

Cabaret du Casino de Montréal @TBA

Eroticism abounds at a one night electronic music extravanganza. With the sounds of thumping electronic music keeping the night alive and a video show to keep your eyelids open, the Songspiel is an event not to be missed.

28th

Cachondo, La Noche Latina

Emile - Gamelin Park @ 8p.m. - 11p.m.

A two-part event features the first half of the evening with fifty artists celebrating a night of salsa, merengue samba and Latin house. The latter half of the night features Mexican singer Lila Downs.

29th

Boulevard des Rêves

Emile - Gamelin Park @ 7:30p.m. - 11p.m.

Hosted by Marleen Menard, some of Quebec's brightest and best singers will take the audience through a night of jazz, R&B, and pop music. Since the creation of the event six years ago, Boulevard des Rêves has been one of the most popular events for music lovers in Quebec.

30th

Sexgarage

Maisonneuve Stage @ 5p.m. - 11p.m. Also on July 31.

Spanning two days, Sexgarage adds a little alternative grime to the shiny sheen of Montréal Pride celebrations with local artist Plastik Patrik heading the event.

PM delux / Sunset Party

Emilé - Gamelin Park @ 11a.m. - 11p.m.

From morning to night, the Sunset Party will feauture set after set of electronic music and thumping beats to keep the park rocking.

Mascara

Berri Stage at Ontario @ 8p.m. - 11p.m.

Montréal goes Broadway in a musical-comedy song & dance show hosted by Mado Lamotte. With side-splitting comedic moments and a dance to make your head spin, Mascara heads into 2005 as one of the more popular events during Montéeal Pride month.

Le Grand Bal Disco

Emilé - Gamelin Park @ 11a.m. - 11p.m

What's a Pride month without a little dancing or a disco? Apparently, we'll never know as Le Grande Bal Disco will keep the hips shaking and boots tapping for the entire day.

La Grande Danse

Berri Stage at Ontario @11a.m. - 11p.m.

Berri street becomes a massive dance party with over 50,000 taking part in a twelve-hour music dance-a-thon. Combining the best of dance music and visual multimedia, the event is bound to knock your senses to a new level.

Le Grand Rendez-Vous

On Ste-Catherine Street between St-Denis and St-Hubert and on Berri Street between René-Lévesque and de Maisonneuve @TBA. Also on July 31.

A two-day event community fair, Montréal's GLBT organizations and associations come together and educate the public on their specific roles and programs. People who are interested will be able to sign up for numerous activities ranging from sports, various social clubs, human rights organizations and more.

For more information regarding Montréal Pride events, please go to www.diverscite.org

Pride Listings 2005

Maritimes

CHARLOTTETOWN

Pride Week in PEI: July 9 - 16

Locations TBA

Stay tuned for more info!

For more information regarding PEI Pride events, please go to www.peipride.com

HALIFAX

July

17th

The 2nd Annual Dykes vs Divas on the Diamond

Diamond #9 - Halifax Commons @ 1p.m.

Truly in a league of their own, spend an afternoon watching the Dykes and Divas duke it out on the baseball diamond.

18th

Official Halifax Pride 2005 Proclamation

City Hall @ 10:15a.m

Kick off Pride week officially with Halifax Mayor Peter Kelly taking part in the flag raising ceremony, then chat with fellow members of the GLBT community and city council members.

19th

Queer Comedy Night

Club NRG, 2215 Gottingen @ 9p.m.

Have a laugh with special guest Cathy Jones and other comics spreading some chuckles on stage. Tickets are $10 in advance and $12 at the door.

20th

Reel Pride Film Festival 4

Empire Theatre - Park Lane, Spring Garden Road. Time TBA. Also on July 21.

Ticket prices, films and times are still to be scheduled, but count on a bonanza of some of the best gay and lesbian films to be screened for your viewing pleasure.

20th

Reading Out Loud

Public Library, Spring Garden Branch. Time TBA.

Add a little literacy to your Pride week, hosted by writer Jane Kansas.

23rd

Parade Day

Cornwallis and Maitland @ 12:30p.m. Parade begins at 1:30p.m.

Get geared up before the parade and then prepare to march through the streets of Halifax spreading gay cheer for all to hear.

At the end of the parade, come out for a fantastic line up of entertainment at Sackville Landing.

An Evening With RuPaul

Reflections Cabaret, 5184 Sackville. Time TBA.

That's right! Reflections Cabaret and Cigar Bar presents RuPaul! Join in on the largest party in Halifax for Pride. Get there early! Many other special guests and performances throughout the evening, so come dance 'til the sun comes up!

24th

Morning Worship

St. John's United Church, Windsor between North & Willow @ 10:30a.m.

Anything you want to confess after Pride week? Go to church with guest Rev. Eldon Hay, Professor Emeritus of Religious Studies at Mount Allison University.

For more information regarding Halifax Pride events, please go to www.halifaxpride.com

SAINT JOHN

Pride Week in PEI: August 8 - 14

Locations TBA

The parade will be on August 13. Stay tuned for more info!

For more information regarding Saint John Pride events, please go to www.portcityrainbowpride.com

CAPE BRETON

Pride Week in PEI: July 23 - 31

Locations TBA

Family is Cape Breton's 2005 Pride theme. Stay tuned for more info!

For more information regarding Cape Breton Pride events, please go to www.geocities.com/capebretonpride

www.halifaxpride.org

Atlantic Canada's Largest Pride

PROUD HALIFAX PRIDE '05

July 17th to 24th

Featuring Appearances by Ru Paul

Week Long Incredible Events

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Queer Comedy Night

Divas VS Dykes Softball Game (and of course, the Parade!)

Atlantic Canada's Queerest Parade July 23rd

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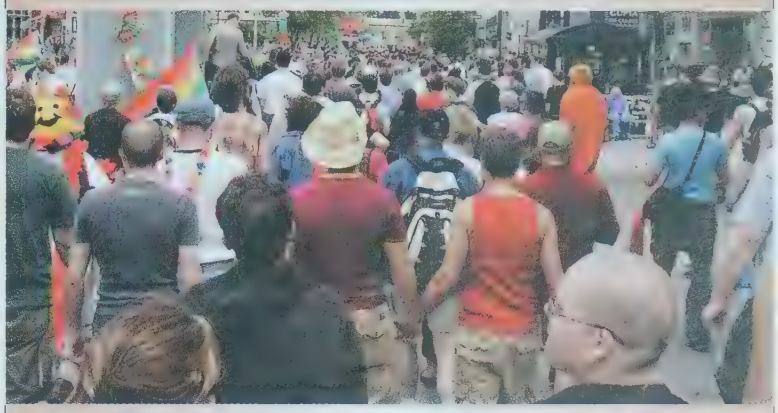

Please note all listings in the 2005 Outlooks National Pride Guide are accurate and up-to-date as submitted at press time.

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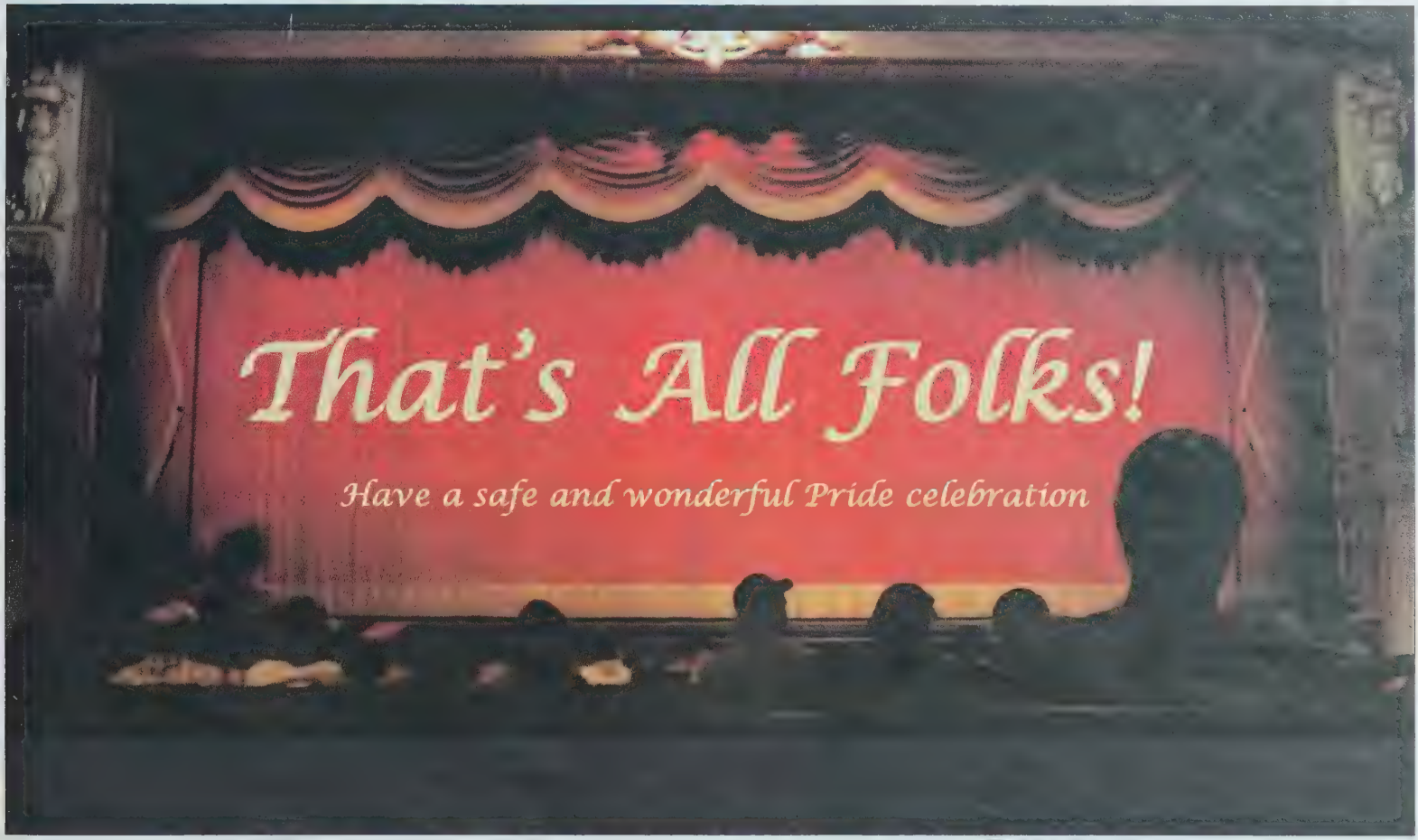
Photos provided by provinces' respective Pride associations and *Outlooks* staff.

Cover illustration, design and layout by Terence Leung.

For more information regarding Canadian Pride events:
www.gaycanada.com
www.pridecanada.com



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from previous candidly about the situation.

Armistead Maupin as shot by celebrity photographer Greg Gorman

Maupin: Oh, I have no problem answering that question at all. The cabal represented by Bush, Ashcroft and Cheney is, to me, a very scary one. And not just from the standpoint of world peace but also civil rights in the United States. I think they'll use any opportunity they can find to erode the rights of gay people anywhere. The fact that they did not speak out against Senator Santorum when he compared homosexuality to beastiality speaks very loudly.

Outlooks: It seems to me that free speech is a right as long as it is consistent with the administration's viewpoints; otherwise, some kinds of free speech can land you on a blacklist. Given your candor, have you had any experience with that kind of thing?

Maupin: You know, last week someone came onto my website and asked me if we were still planning to hire Olympia Dukakis to play Anna Madrigal in the next [*Tales of the City*] series, considering the controversial letter she had written to President Bush. My reply was "What controversy? Everybody that I care about thinks she was very brave to do that. And may I remind you that Anna Madrigal would have signed that letter herself!" [Laughs] It's preposterous: these puritanical "patriots" step up and ask us to punish the people who actually speak out and exercise their rights as Americans.

Outlooks: From this side of the border it's quite disturbing, but it must be really frightening down there.

Maupin: You're kind of free from it, aren't you? Half of my friends are considering moving up there! I spent a little time up there last fall with Ian [McKellen] when he was shooting *X-men* and we had a great time hanging out with the Canadians. Canada just stands with the rest of the world as "progressive", as opposed to the United States.

First photo of A. Maupin and production shot of Olympia Dukakis courtesy of www.talesofthecity.com

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AIDS CALGARY

Foundation unites gay Canada

By Outlooks staff

LOOKING BACK

Reprinted from January 2000

OUTLOOKS MILLENNIUM COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

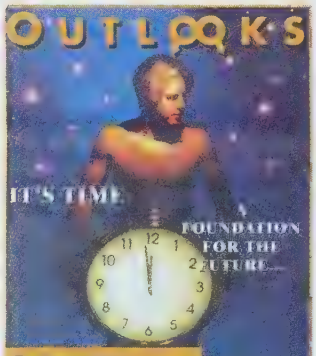
In the relatively brief span of time from Stonewall to century's close, much has changed with the gay community and how it is perceived by the broader population. Rather than thinking of progress in terms of 'battles' and 'wars', we should view the issue of gay rights as a kind of evolution, a constant move forward as opposed to a convoluted do-si-do of wins and losses.

Perhaps one of the greatest drawbacks of this country's national gay community is the sense of fragmentation it bears, being comprised of many diverse regional components. Aside from EGALE (Equality for Gays And Lesbians Everywhere) there is no cohesive organization that binds gay Canada as a whole.

All that's about to change.

On January 1st, the Outlooks Millennium Community Foundation was launched as a means to further the presence, profile and prosperity of gay and lesbian organizations across the country.

According to *Outlooks* magazine publisher Roy Heale, the primary mandate of the foundation is to provide seed money for the creation of new gay and lesbian organizations across Canada, as well as support the advancement of those already in existence. A variety of projects or groups are currently eligible for consideration of grant funds allocation, with others to be added in future as new initiatives come to light.

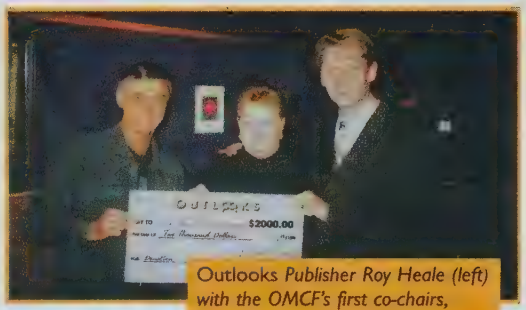


The cover that launched the OMCF

Of primary concern is the disbursement of funds for the creation of new community groups or associations. This category includes gay business associations, sport and leisure groups, peer support organizations and other programs that serve to strengthen the sense of community in Canada's gay and lesbian populations.

Another area of potential foundation support is the sponsorship of events or programs that have proven successful in other cities, those which would enjoy similar success in other Canadian centres with sufficient launch financing. An example of this is Calgary's Small Change... Big Changes event, which benefits the Southern Alberta HIV Clinic. The program, which raises funds through coins collected in keepsake piggy banks, is effective because of its simplicity and relatively low operating costs. The creation of the ceramic pigs, which change colour from year to year, is the greatest expense to Small Change... Big Changes. Other cities interested in pursuing similar campaigns would be eligible for funding consideration to help defray the hard costs of producing the piggy banks. Through such "sharing" programs, cities from coast to coast could raise significant funds in their own communities, as well as raise the profile of a "united" gay Canada.

Existing community support services and organizations are also potential beneficiaries of the Outlooks Millennium Community Foundation. If such an organization wished to expand or improve the services they offer their community, they, too, would be considered for funding disbursement. Examples of expansion/improvement projects would include such things as the creation of youth peer support groups or the development of educational HIV/AIDS prevention programs where they did not exist previously.



Outlooks Publisher Roy Heale (left) with the OMCF's first co-chairs, Lorrie Murphy and Bill Brooks

One of the greatest arenas for expression and discussion within the community is in the arts. Sadly, programs and productions with overtly gay themes are often excluded from traditional corporate funding. An example of this would be the withdrawal of sponsorship by large companies for works such as Tony Kushner's award-winning play *Angels In America*. In such cases, theatre companies requesting financial assistance to replace lost sponsorship monies will also be eligible for support from the foundation.

Clearly, given the scope of eligible groups and programs as outlined, and the number of communities across Canada, funding for the foundation will be key. An initial donation of $2000 was made by *Outlooks* magazine as seed money for the launch of the Millennium Foundation. Further support for the project is expected to come in the form of donations, bequests in wills and special fundraising programs.

As the foundation is national, allocation of monies will be handled on a province-by-province basis, with funds raised in each province going back into their respective communities. Also, as the foundation develops, further plans for the creation of funds will be made known.

Applications for foundation grants will be handled through a two-tier submission program. In order to be considered for funding support, applicants must fall into one of the categories outlined earlier, as well as meet foundation guidelines.

Application forms will be made available to interested parties by contacting the foundation offices directly via telephone, fax, post or e-mail (see below). Once the first form is filled out and returned, and the submission is deemed eligible under the existing criteria, a full registration application will be mailed out. Once this second form has been completed and returned, groups and organizations that best fulfill foundation guidelines will be short-listed and submitted for approval by the board of directors.

Once selections have been made, successful applicants will be notified by mail regarding their disbursement if funds are available. Applications which do not meet foundation guidelines at the time of submission will also be notified by mail and invited to re-submit once the proper criteria have been met.

As it is with *Outlooks* magazine, the foundation is always interested in receiving feedback and constructive criticism from the community at large. Comments, queries and concerns—as well as application requests—can be submitted in the following manner:

by post: Box 439, Suite 100
1039 17th Avenue S.W.
Calgary, Alberta T2T 0B2by e-mail: omcf@omcf.ca
on the Web: www.omcf.ca
by phone, toll free: 1-888-228-1157 In Calgary: 228-1157
by fax: (403) 228-7735

Some of the groups and individuals who have contributed to the Outlooks Millennium Community Foundation are: ARGRA; the Red Ribbon Community Walk; the Calgary Networking Club; Sara Hamilton and David; Pride Calgary; the Rekroom pool tournament; and the Merlot/Devon Mills and Co. St. Patrick's Day drag show. Groups that have received funding from the OMCF include: the Calgary Society of Independant Filmmakers; Teatro Berdache; VIGOR; IGBO; Out On Screen; Small Change...Big Changes; and a youth website co-sponsored by the GLCSA.

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Wilderlife

By Mitchell Kiever

I've been known to pop into the local computer chatroom on occasion, and the other night was one of those nights where I went to bed as normal and then at about 2 a.m., like someone turning on a switch, I was wide awake. So I clicked into the Calgary room, but didn't know anyone so I went about clicking all the profiles for pictures, and then surfed some of my favourite sites.

Somewhere between Mercedes Benz and the African Wildlife Foundation, a young guy from Vancouver privated me.

It started like most chats: "What are your stats?" "What do you do for fun?" And of course, the all-important, "What are you looking for?" Turns out he was having a sleepless night, too, and we ended up talking about a lot different things; biking, dating, exes, and eventually we got onto a favourite topic of mine: gorillas.

Yes, gorillas.

You see, I spent five years in Africa studying gorillas and chimpanzees, and it almost always comes up when someone asks what I do for work. Not that I currently study them, but having worked with them so closely, they are still a big part of my life. So we start talking about apes, and the usual question comes up, "Did you ever see a gay gorilla out there?"

Honestly, I don't know.

There was that time when I saw two young male siblings mounting each other one day— which by definition was two male gorillas humping the hell out of each other—but I am not sure if they were gay, *per se.*

No, actually, I'm a top...

I never saw it personally, but a colleague of mine who had been in the bush a little bit too long used to joke about a group of bachelor male gorillas in Rwanda that spent a lot of time together. They had the dubious nickname 'the hairdresser group.' No offense to hairdressers of course,but if gorillas were willing, any decent stylist in this city could make a killing grooming one or two of them.

Are they gay? Well, that's a tough question to answer and this guy was really curious about all this and started to ask all sorts of questions. Now, given that I spent most of my twenties in Africa watching animals, I think I warped his entire perception of the animal kingdom—right from Bambi on up to Flipper.

Basically as I told him, many of the same-sex behaviours we see in humans we also see in other species and, in us as well as them, these may very well serve an important social function. It's hard to say what this function is exactly, but it does occur in a lot of mammals and birds.

For example, once on safari, I saw two male baboons masturbating each other in plain daylight, right in front of all the tourists who were sitting there wide-eyed, thinking, "This can't be real." Well, it *was* real and I have the pictures to prove it.

And trust me, sit with enough chimpanzees and eventually you are going to see two females wrapping their legs around each other screaming in ecstasy. I've seen that, too. In fact, I probably have some latent emotional scarring from it.

Another good example comes from Bonobos, our closest genetic relatives. They have what could politely be called, "highly diverse sexual behaviour" which includes the technically correct G-G (genital-to-genital) contact among females and even males rubbing scrota together. Some researchers suggest that Bonobos use these behaviours to resolve conflicts but, regardless, same-sex individuals engage in erotic behaviour that is not aimed at reproduction. Mental note: stop resolving conflicts with exes.

These same-sex behaviours have actually fascinated me for many years.

I grew up on a farm and, surprise of all surprises, I was an inquisitive little guy and the resident behaviouralist (not, *ahem*, voyeur). As far as atypical behaviours on the farm went, bulls humping steers was pretty common—which to me seemed like a whole lot of playground antics. And, really, why not? What with slaughter approaching and all...

I had six pigs once, and oddly enough I noted that two of the boars spent a lot of time together. I later read while being driven to cub scouts this was called sexually indiscriminate mounting. Who knew?

A trip to the local zoo taught me that geese engage in "supernormal clutching," where two females each contribute a full batch of eggs and they raise them together. Rather than think of them as Lesbionic Supergeese, though, I looked at it in terms of co-parenting.

Once, driving up to Mt. Norquay with my parents and brother, we saw bighorn rams nuzzling and mounting each other. There I was, sitting in the back of the family station wagon pushing my glasses up and asking, "What are they doing?"

"Son, he's establishing dominance," my father said, "nothing more than aggressosexual behaviour."

I believed *that* one all the way into puberty.

And it was one summer afternoon while sitting in the grass watching the beavers at work in the nearby creek that I discovered hermaphroditism in snails. It's true: imagine the excitement that afternoon running back to the house screaming, "Mom, you are not gonna believe this!" Turns out that snails can change sex practically at will. Neither Mom nor I had any clue. Mental note: thank parents for being so patient in raising me.

As I learned early on, same-sex behaviour must obviously serve some purpose.

"Did you know," I said to my chat buddy, "that bottlenosed dolphins, from about age ten onward, form a 'pair bond' with another male that they keep for the next fifteen years?"

It's true.

Actually, technically, Flipper was a girl dolphin whose name was Suzy. This was probably good for the show because Flipper himself may have met another young dolphin male, and together they would have run away, their grey rubbery bodies glistening in the warm tropical waters, swimming around the Florida Keys to save Sandy and Bud from the constant danger there were in. Might make for a modern adaptation of the old series…(wait for it) *Queer as Flipper?*

As I mentioned, too, in my African travels I saw a lot of it. For instance, there is a warbler species where female pairs will adopt an entire nest and raise the young as their own. Apparently even female cheetahs have been known to look for lost cubs and raise them as co-parents.

Fruit bats (how ironic) engage in an overt homosexual grooming, which when described makes any erotic story seem trite: "Two males, hanging belly-to-belly, each with an erect penis… one male then works his tongue over the entire body of the other male…" Sounds fun—except for the hanging upside down part. No offense to the sexual sadists on that one, just not my style...

And, of course from my old ape research days, sitting with gorillas day after day, you would often see two same-sex individuals clearly showing a preference for each other. It's normal, in fact. If you look at mountain gorilla dynamics, the group is comprised of a single male with many females, and so it follows that you are going to see females spending more time with each other. And, because the stability of the group is dependent on one dominant male, all other males float around on the periphery of the group in what we call bachelor groups.

The point here being that you see atypical sexual behaviour in all sorts of animals, and it is more common than most people think.

Now the big caveat here is that it doesn't mean that animals are gay and it doesn't answer the question of gay gorillas. It is simply same-sex 'bonding,' and it is no different than two guys hanging out at the local pub on a Saturday night, and it's no different than grandma and the 'blue-rinse' crowd playing bridge on a Saturday afternoon. It is quite simply two animals of the same sex interacting.

This notion, of course, offends the sensibilities of many. All I will say to that is that the existence or non-existence of lesbian guinea pigs should have nothing to do with equal rights and the observance of things in the wild should lend more understanding and acceptance of our own behaviours. I don't have any doubt in my mind that same-sex behaviour serves an important social function and I dare say that all of us would be lost without these sorts of interactions.

So what do we make of all this?

I don't know, to be honest, but the next morning after my chat with this guy, I did one of my favourite Saturday morning things—I went to the pet store and I asked the clerk if they had any lesbian guinea pigs.

"We don't have any that do that," was her reply.

Don't be so sure... ▼

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Designing men

By Norm Sacuta

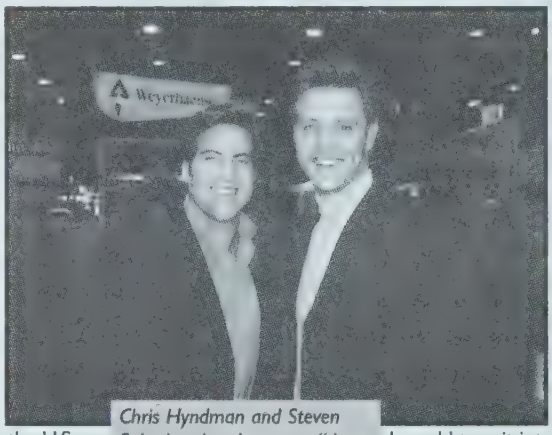
LOOKING BACK

Excerpts from the April 2002 interview

Steven Sabados and Chris Hyndman have finally found a few minutes to relax on their first Friday in Edmonton, taking a short break to enjoy brunch in the Westin Hotel before heading off to the city's Agricom and a second arduous day of appearances at the Edmonton Home & Garden Show. Between sips of juice and an occasional bite of French toast, they're greeted by strangers who stop or wave hello. Their personal consultant looks on—pleased by how much a half-hour of television can do for two careers.

Sabados, thirty-seven, and Hyndman, thirty-six, are better known to those in the know as the Designer Guys, home interior experts who have a show of the same name on HGTV (Home and Garden Television). The show itself is a clever mix of design expertise, hipness and humour—and, unlike others of its kind, unfolds like a drama or sitcom as the client's design dilemma for each week is identified, cornered and whipped into shape.

Designer Guys began on HGTV just a year ago, with thirteen episodes, but quickly developed such a large following that twenty-six episodes have just been taped for the second season. The homes and clients featured in each episode are all in and around Toronto, but the design advice given is so universal that the show has recently gone international, playing in a variety of countries that includes Singapore, the Czech Republic and Hong Kong. This April it begins playing in the U.S. on Discovery Digital.



Chris Hyndman and Steven Sabados, then known as "the Designer Guys"

Both men play off each other well in person and exude the same personalities they display on the small screen—Sabados, for example, has the firmer handshake and nicer hands in general, whereas Hyndman definitely knows he has the bigger, better hair. *Outlooks*' exclusive visit with them provided more than a few revelations.

Outlooks: So tell me, how great is it to be able to go on television and just be yourselves?

Sabados: Actually, that's a really good question. It's a wonderful feeling, because what we do on TV is just real life, you know? We go out, we're crazy, we run around, we trip up, and that's the nice thing about our show. They don't leave that stuff out. The fact that Christopher falls down the stairs, it doesn't get left out. They allow us to be ourselves.

Hyndman: I think the best thing about it is the response that we're getting from being ourselves. And I love it because it makes me feel like, hey, I'm okay. There's so many people saying to us, when we walk down the street, "You guys are good—we really enjoy your show. You have fun and seem to really be having a good time". And that is the best part of being ourselves. People aren't responding to us as actors, but rather just to us. It's very Sally Field: "You like me, you really like me!"

Outlooks: Do you think this show could have gone on the air ten years ago?

Hyndman: Definitely not. And I think that's because of the flamboyance of the show. I think we're over the top. Our humour is a little off and crazy. Our network actually didn't want to do a lot of the stuff that we wanted to do—a lot of the hiccups, mess-ups and humour—but then they started to look at the little bits that did get through and in the second season they just said "Go for it!" All the funny parts you'd like to put in, all the over the top, all the camp, just go for it because people are responding to it. Ten years ago that wouldn't have worked.

Sabados: I think the public wanted something—a lot of the shows ten years ago were all about having the perfect home and rules, and to some degree intimidating the public. On our show we're just putting back the energy and saying, "Have fun, have humour, it's decorating—come on! It's not brain surgery, we're not trying to save the world." And I think the public wants to have fun again.

Hyndman: We don't want to pitch to people that we're perfect guys and you have to be perfect people to have a perfect home and children. Just like your place, that's all we want, and for god's sake laugh at least twice a day. I don't think that would have worked ten years ago. Plus, I would have been, like, two years old ten years ago.

Outlooks: Have you ever been in a situation where you've wanted to say to your guest client, "You don't need us, you need a flame-thrower"?

Sabados: We do have a show coming up that was a real challenge—I'm not sure when it's going to air—but it's called "The Tacky Shack".

Hyndman: She called her place the tacky shack.

Sabados: She wrote us a letter, the whole basis of which was "Sure, you can do wonders with these million-dollar homes and unlimited budgets, but what can you do for my tacky shack?" We thought the letter was such a riot, we felt we had to go see this place. And you know what? It was outrageous! It was, indeed, a tacky shack.

Hyndman: I was really horrified at first and I thought, we can't do this. And then Steven really convinced me—he said, look, we can't just work on a big budget since that's the message we'd be sending across. The network does want our show to be a little bit of a fantasy show with celebrity and rich guests. We certainly could have put a torch to this place and it would have helped. But you know, she was so great. She was our favourite guest. She has the best sense of humour—she really got us, and we really got her. It ended up being our favourite show.

Sabados: And the room afterwards looked phenomenal.

Hyndman: If we don't say so ourselves!

Sabados: Of course, we'll have to let the viewer decide that. But we turned the tacky shack into a retro rec-room, and it was a fun, wacky show based on a '70s theme.

Hyndman: We do really want to send a message, too, that it doesn't really matter what anybody else likes, it matters what you like. And if you like it, put it in there. That's what we want to say to people. Nothing's tacky to us. If you don't like it, then it's tacky, but if you like it, it ain't tacky.

Outlooks: Do you have a particular room in a house that's your favourite, for yourself? Let's say you're designing a house—is there a room that you'd love to design above all others? A fantasy room?

Sabados: Mine would be a huge, huge barn. And I would turn it into a studio where I could paint. A huge space that could even have an old, wooden dirty floor. Tons of paint, potter's wheels, just messy. Big dogs running around. But it has to be a big barn, so when you open the doors you can see the trees outside. That's my fantasy space. I would live in that.

Hyndman: [Laughs] Mine would have to be a ballerina studio—because of all the mirrors. Four walls of mirrors. I wouldn't need any furniture, just me. I'll just stand in the middle—

Sabados: [Laughs] You could never get your leg up on one of those bars, though. You'd never get it back down again.

Hyndman: Okay, now that's just not nice. True, but not nice. No, my favourite room would be the bathroom. I love bathrooms. I could spend more time in the bathroom than any woman alive. Joan Collins couldn't spend more time in the bathroom than I do.

Outlooks: So, as your fame has increased, do you find it's much more difficult to do your own thing off the air?

Hyndman: Oh, way more! [Laughs]

Sabados: But you know what—it's wonderful. People have asked us if we get annoyed when people stop and interrupt us. But never—ever. Because you know what? Those are the people who are watching the show, and if they didn't come up then we'd think no one was watching or no one cared.

Hyndman: We want people to feel free to come up and talk to us—except when I don't look good.

Sabados: If he's in sunglasses and a baseball cap, don't go near him.

Outlooks: Given your personal tastes, what would be the ultimate on-air client for each of you?

Hyndman: I have a new one—I'll tell you what, Pamela Anderson was my first choice, because I think she's a great Canadian. I know a lot of people think I'm insane when I say that, but I honestly think she's a great Canadian and a strong woman. In spite of her looks, she's done very, very well. Her looks have brought her to where she is, but she hasn't been respected because of her looks. She's done very well for herself, and she's got kids—she's a good mother. A body like that and she's good with kids! But I've got a new dream client now—Marlen Copeland is my new favourite lady and I want to go into her home. We've met her and she's a warm person—when she speaks to you she talks to your face. We were with her for an evening, and every person she met she looked directly in the eye and stayed with them until the conversation was over. So I'd like to do something with her.

Sabados: She is phenomenal.

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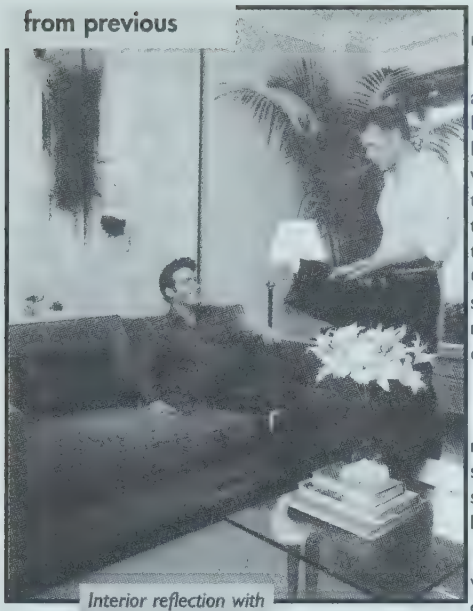

Interior reflection with Chris and Steven

Hyndman: And she's got more money than God! [Laughs]

Sabados: Mine is still the same as it's always been—I love Goldie Hawn. I just think she's wonderful. I met her once, years ago when I was working for Roots, and I heard this laugh down the hall and I thought, I know that laugh. And I turned around and there was Goldie Hawn. And I thought, wow she is just like she seems in the movies. It's my ultimate dream to do her cottage—

Hyndman: —or Cher's.

Sabados: Of course, Cher. To me, Cher is God. But Goldie has such great energy, and a good sense of humour, and I'd love to have lunch and meet her.

Outlooks: Have you found when you have a gay or lesbian client that there are demands they might make that are different than a straight client, or is there little difference?

Sabados: No difference at all, actually.

Hyndman: They're usually better, of course. Nicer people. [Laughs]

Sabados: We've had a lot of gay clients that are very involved, that know a lot about design, which is sometimes intimidating.

Hyndman: We've had a couple of gay guys on our show and a lesbian couple, as well. There really is no difference. People is people is people.

Outlooks: Well that is a bit of a surprise, only because I would have thought a gay person might utilize his or her space differently.

Hyndman: Well, I think to be honest they are more conscious of style. That might be a sweeping generalization, but the gay clients we've come across, generally, have been more interested in projecting an image for their friends, whereas many of the straight ladies place children first, if they have them, husband second and themselves third. Obviously with a gay couple, it's them first and how their image is projected. Less function, more style.

Sabados: And that also makes it a little more intimidating because, you know, the gay couples we've done are very knowledgeable of design décor and read the decorating magazines.

Outlooks: If you had to be doing something other than this show, what would it be for each of you?

Hyndman: Supermodel for me. My big dream is to be Naomi Campbell [Laughs]. No—actually, I think I'd like to work with children. I'd want to be a camp counsellor, or something with children that have challenges in their lives, whether physical or emotional. And I hope that, perhaps, the celebrity status that this show is beginning to bring me will allow me to do something like that.

Sabados: I'd like to be an artist. I went to school for art—I studied painting and photography for years. That's where the whole barn thing comes in, of course. I would love to wake up in the morning with a pot of coffee, and just go to the studio and paint. Not a starving artist—a very rich one. In Manhattan.

Hyndman: Well, the ultimate retirement for both of us—and this is my dream, pulling in Steven—would be to retire to a farm with cottages, and in the summer children that don't get an opportunity to go to summer camps would be able to come and Steven could introduce them to art. It's a great way for children to express themselves and it's not something that's given to a lot of kids. So I'd like to give them the opportunity to experience art, and Steven would like to teach art to kids. Combining both things—fresh air and art—would be great. So we're hoping that at some point in our lives, as a last step in our careers, we would be able to do something like that.

Sabados: Creativity is the one thing that everyone on earth has—especially children. Everyone is creative.

Hyndman: And we're gonna get a great big fridge to hang all that art on. ▼

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Progress in the gay '90s

By Catherine Ford

Columnist Catherine Ford

LOOKING BACK

Reprinted from January 1998

No New Year's resolutions, but a New Year's prediction: these, too, will eventually be known as The Gay '90s.

It might take a decade of the next century for hindsight and historians to get together on the definition, but the sobriquet will surely prove too irresistible. One hundred years ago, the writer Oscar Wilde was reviled for "the love that dares not speak its name". After being released from prison in 1897, Wilde left his wife and son and joined his lover, Lord Alfred Douglas. Three years later, in 1900, Wilde would die in poverty, aged only forty-six.

By the time of the century's turn, and the 100th anniversary of Wilde's death, a world he could never have envisioned will have been realized. Homosexuality may not yet be considered mainstream, but it is no longer a sufficient cause for discrimination. Like the men and women who still discriminate against blacks or Jews, those who continue a bigotry against homosexuals are considered infra dig—caught in a time warp of fear and loathing.

It still exists, as racism, anti-Semitism and anti-feminism exists. But it is no longer socially acceptable. Better, it is no longer legally acceptable in many cases. (That Alberta has yet to amend its human rights legislation to prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation—and has sought legal permission to continue thusly—is merely a matter of time and pressure from Albertans who recognize that discrimination against the one is discrimination against the all.)

Quietly, with little public recognition, ordinary companies have changed their policies over the years to grant same-sex benefits to their employees. Just last summer, B.C. passed a law giving same-sex couples legal status when it comes to their children. A month later, the United Church called on the federal government to amend the Income Tax Act to recognize same-sex couples. The resolution was passed in the wake of changes to the Canadian Human Rights Act to include sexual orientation as a prohibited grounds for discrimination. In October, and Ontario judge ruled unconstitutional the denial of life insurance benefits to the survivor of a same-sex couple.

Such changes come incrementally, slowly, inching the laws and the country forward to real equality. The changes come despite adverse reaction, neo-conservative backlash, and the natural inertia of the status quo. But come they do.

The reason is simple: they are the right actions for a nation to take when committed to equality of opportunity. But nothing comes fast enough for those already at the finish line and anxious for the eventual results. Nothing will be soon enough, quick enough, or far enough for any of the action groups seeking to advance the gay rights agenda.

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It's tough to tell people convinced they are right that they must learn to appreciate the time lag between idea and realization. It's even tougher to convince such groups that outrageous demonstrations and acts do nothing to advance their cause. In fact, Gay Pride parades and open demonstrations of acts better left private do little but convince the Neanderthals they were right in the first place. (If the truth were told, I rather object to heterosexual displays of sexuality in public, too.)

What gives me the right to speak for or against the human rights, civil liberties and daily lives of a group to which I don't, and can't, belong? God knows, the "some of my best friends..." won't cut it. But what might justify my observations could be the simple fact of knowledge and experience. To be a female who has lived through more than thirty years of feminism and the rewriting of the entire lexicon of male-female relations and family dynamics is to know, in intimate detail, the anger, the exclusion and the triumphs of being an outcast.

Tony Kushner, author of *Angels in America*, described—in an interview with writer David Savran—what he says constitutional law calls the suspect class. "It isn't a community of like-minded people with similar material interests... but rather a group that has been formed, to a certain degree, by hostility from without. From the point of view of the Constitution [of the United States] the forces that shape the group into a class are suspect rather than the people in the class."

Little is as suspect to the natural ruling class than uppity underlings. And for those born to the purple—that is, white, straight males—deviancy of any kind can be seen as a threat, particularly if the gods failed to provide the money, brains and upwardly mobile opportunities that secure the socio-economic position to go with the expectations.

As a woman who entered the job market in 1964, the process of demanding, getting and holding on to the jobs and privileges that men consider their right and due has been taxing. It is particularly irritating to have young women dismiss efforts made on their behalf by those who went before them, although at the same time it is ironic (and pleasantly so) to consider young women today deny feminism because a couple of generations of feminists worked their butts off to give them that choice.

"It's tough to tell people convinced they are right that they must learn to appreciate the time lag between idea and realization. It's even tougher to convince such groups that outrageous demonstrations and acts do nothing to advance their cause."

Nonetheless, being a member of the so-called suspect class is a curiously apt description, as it singles out the group and not the individual. (This is where the "some of my best friends..." justification fits.)

For example: most men and women marry. Most women are feminists (at least of the equal pay for work of equal value, or equality of opportunity variety). Thus, most men are married to feminists. Therefore, where do all these ball-busting, man-hating, plaid-shirt-wearing feminists come from?

So, too, with gays and lesbians, with homosexuals of all stripes and colours. Each one has a mother and father; many have sisters and brothers, each is a member of someone's family. But we don't hate and discriminate against Bill, the neighbour's gay son, or against Cousin Fred, or Uncle Ned's brother's daughter's really close friend Amber with whom she shares a condo in downtown Vancouver with two cats and a collection of New Age crystals. Nope, we discriminate against "those fags". The others. The group.

In *Perestroika*, part one of *Angels in America*, the much-reviled right-wing lawyer Roy Cohn is portrayed as nasty a piece of business as you'd find. The mythical, onstage figure puts his beefy figure directly on the problems faced by homosexuals: power and perception.

On stage, Cohn's doctor is trying to tell him he has AIDS. Cohn counters that the doctor is hung up on labels. "Like all labels they tell you one thing and one thing only: where does an individual so identified fit in the food chain, in the pecking order? Not ideology or sexual taste, but something much simpler: clout. Not who I f***or who f***s me, but who will pick up the phone when I call, who owes me favours. This is what a label refers to.

"Now, to someone who does not understand this, homosexual is what I am because I have sex with men. But really this is wrong. Homosexuals are not men who sleep with other men. Homosexuals are men who in fifteen years of trying cannot get a pissant anti-discrimination bill through city council.

"Homosexuals are men who know nobody and who nobody knows. Who have zero clout..."

He's right, and that's the challenge for these Gay '90s: to make sexual orientation as irrelevant to power and privilege as being female is to being a lawyer, or black is to being a doctor. ▼

A "note-worthy" event

By David King

EVM's special guest artists, the Derivative Duo, AKA Susan Niven and Barb Glenn

Unless you are listening closely, it can be easy to forget that Edmonton has some of Canada's top choirs and choruses. Along with a university that offers undergraduate and master's degrees in chorus and conducting careers, the city's concert halls, large and small, are about as choc-full of spectators as a Sunday chapel during a queer apocalypse.

This year, amidst prep for Pride and the city's Centennial celebrations, the Edmonton Vocal Minority (EVM) celebrates its twelfth season of performances at the Provincial Museum with *One World, Many Voices*. After some successful fundraising initiatives, increased travelling and better visibility as a member of GALA, the choir seems to be hitting a higher note than in its early days, when thirteen Edmontonians first took the stage alongside Calgary's Rocky Mountain Singers at the university Convocation Hall, scrambling to represent the city's GLBT community.

Times have changed. This year, as EVM's voices sing of diversity rather than isolation, its world music line-up a good indication of a feel-good sensibility. Under the direction of Artistic Director Paula Roberts and accompanist Sheila Wright, EVM will host returning Seattle visitors The Derivative Duo, joining forces to feature everything from Buddhist Mantras and Micma'q chants to the "P.M.S. Aria," a tongue-in-cheek, diva-disturbed signature for the celebrated Duo. Despite the seemingly mainstream idea, General Manager Kirk Kryvenchuk is quick to point out that EVM continues its efforts to represent and celebrate GLBT culture.

"It's such a transient community in Edmonton," says Kryvenchuk, "and ever-changing as it is, it looks like there is more stability around us these days. There was a wonderful excitement in the first five years and in the last five, we've had to work at not being complacent, finding places we should go rather than waiting for something to happen."

The Edmonton Vocal Minority in concert

EVM's choir, which at one time peaked at close to 100 members, has settled to a comfortable few dozen these days, continuing to use the Convocation Hall as a second performance venue throughout their season. An EVM veteran himself, Kryvenchuk has seen the "family" change over the years first-hand and, as an alternative to the bar scene, the choir has remained strong, contributing to numerous local causes every year.

"EVM has established its own model, and so much depends on a good board and good administrators," says Kryvenchuk. "There's something very empowering about hearing a love song between two men and to use our music to educate and show people we're the same."

Meeting weekly from September to June, EVM's programming has often involved celebrated guest artists, and this year's collaborations with the Derivative Duo is no exception. Featuring founding musicians Susan Niven and Barb Glenn, the Duo sprang up two decades ago, when the pair of comediennes first met with the Seattle Feminist Ensemble. Blending twisted lyrics with operatic parody, one description of these femmes-fatales reads more like drag than anything else: sequins, tiaras, high-tops and gemstones. Following *One World, Many Voices*, the pair will appear in *Acts of Pride*, one of Edmonton's 2005 Pride events.

"They have a wonderful mix of materials that taps into both gay and lesbian sensibilities," notes Kryvenchuk. "The Duo is more fun than preachy—but they know what buttons to push. There will be a set on same-gender marriage with a sing-along for the audience, and the choir's going to do a madrigal about love and marriage."

Married or not, this year's event should offer some decent fare for everyone. With song titles that range from Pasta Diva to This We Know, the Earth Does Not Belong to Us; We Belong to the Earth, expect the eclectic.

"I think the concert celebrates that we live in a diverse world," says Kryvenchuk, "and as gay people, our place is just as important a component as any others. So I hope audiences will get a sense of empowering, and knowing we belong in the greater scheme of things."

To join EVM or get involved, visit the choir's web site at **www.evmchoir.com**. *One World, Many Voices* takes place Thursday, June 23 at the Provincial Museum of Alberta Theatre in Edmonton, starting at 8pm. Tickets range in price from $10 to $15. For more information on the event, call (780) 479-2038 or e-mail: sing@evmchoir.com. ▼

David King is a freelance journalist currently residing in Edmonton. A writer, performer and director, he is the co-founding Artistic Director of Montreal's OUT Productions.

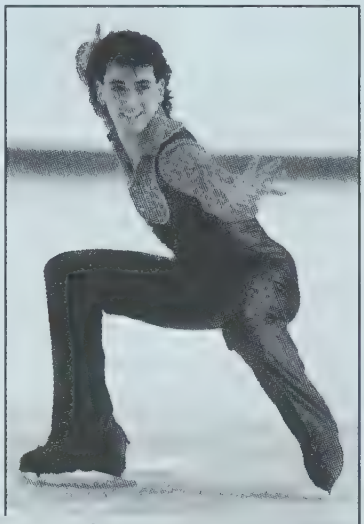
"We've come a long way"

By Bill Brooks

LOOKING BACK

Reprinted from June 1997

It is difficult to believe that there is anyone in Canada who doesn't know who Brian Orser is. During his career he has won the Canadian figure skating championship eight times, the Olympic silver medal twice ('84 and '88), as well as two Gemini awards for his shows *Night Moves* and *Blame It On The Blues*, and an Emmy Award for *Carmen on Ice*. If that weren't enough, he is the only figure skater ever promoted to Officer of the Order of Canada. *Outlooks* caught up with Orser recently to discuss his life on and off the ice.



Ice maestro Brian Orser

Outlooks: It must be a double-edged sword being the "darling" of the country. Could you expand on that a bit?

Orser: You know what? That kind of saved my butt after the Olympics. Although I, and the rest of the country, were disappointed that I didn't win the gold medal, because they kind of had a love affair with me made it OK. I'm glad I was in that position rather than being a flash-in-the-pan and let people down. We all had a great time and everyone went home happy. It really helped me digest the whole disappointment and as the years go on, they're still there cheering.

Outlooks: Did you always know that you were destined for greatness and stardom?

Orser: I was always so focused on the training, the Olympics and boom—it just happened. I wasn't ready for what the fans wanted. Skating has grown so much in the last five years I am lucky to still be out there and be able to capitalize on that a little bit. But you know, it's overwhelming but it's great for the sport and for me as an entertainer. I'm in the entertainment business—that's what it is.

Outlooks: What was the hardest thing for you once you achieved such phenomenal success?

Orser: The hardest part is trying to stay current and fresh. You don't want to be a tired old thing out there. It's pretty easy to be swept under the carpet so you always want to come out with something fresh. Plus, technically you want to be doing what the audience expects because people remember the Calgary Olympics like it was yesterday. The fans remember the triple axles and triple lutzs and all the big triple zipples—if you're not doing that anymore you have to compensate with something that's equally exciting. *That's* a challenge. Plus, you go through life stuff that the fans don't really know about or care—they just want you to skate well. The last ten years I've gone through so much with friends dying and my Mom dying and then you have to go back on the ice the next day and be great. That's the hardest part.

Outlooks: Might some of the tragedies that you have experienced actually make you a better skater?

Orser: Until this year, I finally took that energy and put it towards my skating. My Mom died in December so while I'm skating now I have thoughts of her. Every once in a while I have thoughts of Rob McCall, Brian Pockar, Sean McGill—friends who have died and that gives me extra energy. But, you know, in previous years it was more like "poor me".

Outlooks: How old are you now?

Orser: Thirty-five.

Outlooks: Man, you look good!

Orser: It's all those years on the ice! I've been preserved. Being in a cold rink from the age of five, I feel like I've been preserved.

Outlooks: What sort of physical regimen do you go through to stay in such great shape?

Orser: Last year, I had my first major injury—I tore my hamstring. It was the first time I really had to take care of my body. I have to work out every day and especially work the areas that my craft requires. Now I do a thirty-minute warmup before going on. As a kid, you would warm up for

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two or three minutes.

Outlooks: You have your own production company as well. When the day comes that you decide not to skate any more, I imagine you will still be choreographing and producing.

Orser: I like the producing part. I've learned so much in the past ten years about show business. I know the people to bring in for a show—lights, sound, concept, gimmicks, promotion. Fortunately, there is a real need for fundraising shows so our company can kill two birds with one stone. Our production company does well putting the show on and at the end of the day, the charity makes money too.

Outlooks: How do you feel when some people say that all figure skaters are gay?

Orser: I think there is less flamboyancy in skating now. Figure skating has become such a big sport through the media. Overnight, male skaters went from not putting their hands over their waist to Toller Cranston and John Currie who had the balls to go out there and express themselves. They took it a long way. Whether they are gay or not has nothing to do with it, but it was perceived by the audience that they were gay and that's their opinion and they are entitled to that.

Outlooks: Rudy Galindo has just published his autobiography and I believe he is the first major figure skater to come out. Do you think that may hurt him?

Orser: Not at all. This might actually help his career. Everyone has embraced him. He has had a lot of tragedy in his life. I respect him for being out and his skating certainly reflects how he feels.

Outlooks: Does being publicly gay hurt one's chances for sponsorship?

Orser: We've come a long way. I know that, as a result of doing several AIDS benefits, sponsors now are OK with getting involved. Ten years ago, it was a nightmare to get sponsorship. When I did Skate The Dream for Rob McCall, it was just at the turning point and sponsors wanted to be involved—they were proud to be involved because at long last, everyone realizes that AIDS affects everyone; it's not exclusive to homosexuals. But when it comes to individual sponsorship, they [the sponsors] are afraid to be tied into someone like Greg Louganis—and I'm sure Greg will agree with me. They didn't use him to commentate on TV because of not only the AIDS issue but also because he is openly gay. Even if he didn't have AIDS, I'm not sure if they would have used him.

Outlooks: But yet they will use Magic Johnson.

Orser: Right, but he's not gay. We are moving in the right direction, but if you are a major important athlete and you want to have a career after your heyday and have your major bread and butter through sponsorship, you can't be gay. Period. There are lots of athletes who are gay who are living a different life because of that situation. You are only saleable for a certain amount of time. When that is over, then you can live your life as you want but when you're out there, there's nothing wrong with giving the people and the sponsors what they want—the illusion of a show. If you are hired to do a show, you're hired not just because of your talent but also because of your image that is good for the product. Producers and promoters look at image.

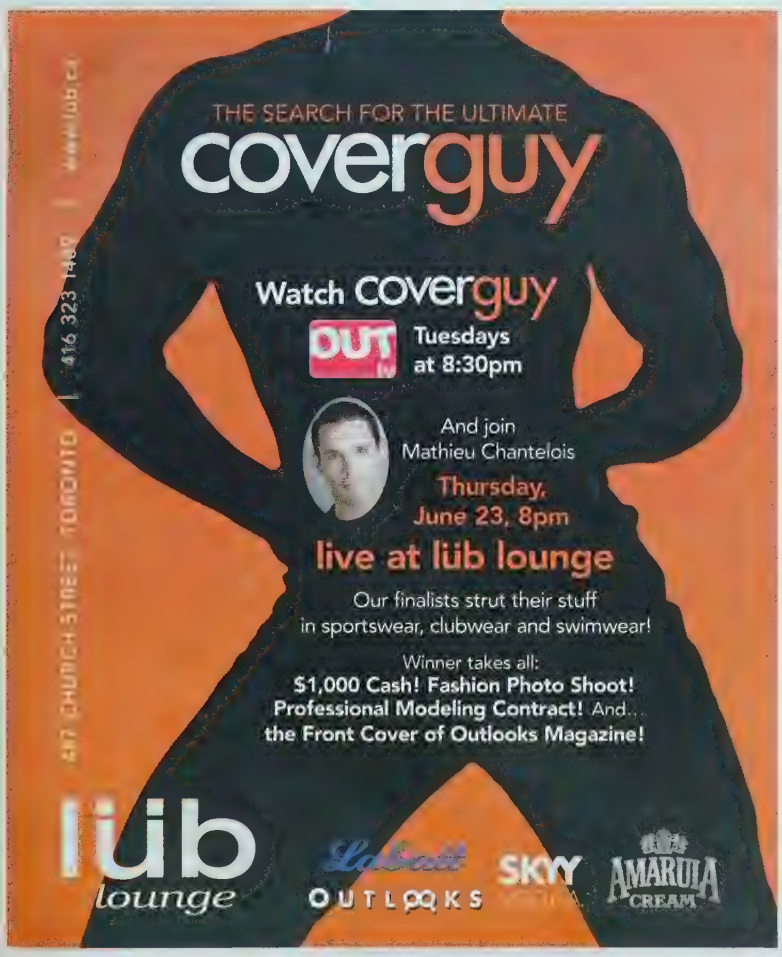
A proud moment during the '88 Olympics in Calgary

Outlooks: And your private life is nobody's business, correct?

Orser: It's nobody's business. The great thing about being Canadian is that you can actually have a life and not have to worry about paparazzi and all that crap.

Outlooks: What advice would you give to a young wannabe star?

Orser: I want to say "just be yourself" but some people get into trouble by being themselves. Christopher Bowman was known as the Hans Brinker From Hell [in *Sports Illustrated*]. He was reckless—I don't think he has any regrets, but by being so much himself, it ruined him. I always remember why I got into the business and that is because it's something I love to do. If I'm backstage freaking out about doing a triple lutz, then I'm in the wrong business. Just go out and skate because you love to do it. If you happen to land the triple zipples, then do them. Remember why you got involved in the first place, whether it's singing, acting, skating or whatever. Always be passionate.



TRAVEL

By Roy Heale

LOOKING BACK

Reprinted from May 2003

In Canada, we're leading the Americans and moving closer towards the legal recognition of gay relationships. It doesn't matter if we call it marriage or come up with a special name for same-sex unions, one thing is for sure: the honeymoon is going to be *really important*. After all, it's been a long time coming! We will likely invent a fashionable name like "The Morning After Jet-away" or some such thing, just to put a different—and gay—stamp on it. No matter what the term, a romantic post-nuptials spot will be the order of the day and I cannot imagine a better-suited getaway than Russian River. This small resort town with a distinctive gay flair is nestled in the beautiful natural surroundings of Redwood Country amongst the Northern California Sonoma Vineyards—even the Korbel champagne winery is right there to help you celebrate your new union with a toast!

The Russian River tourist region is centred around the small, unhurried town of Guernville, California, which is very easy to find after just under a two-hour drive from San Francisco airport. This gay holiday destination has remained unspoiled for the last decade and, despite the abundance of the gay dollar, it has not been over commercialized (as is often the case with other popular gay summer resorts). The reason for this is a local bylaw that doesn't allow any new businesses to locate here unless they assume an existing location. Also, every business must be independent—no franchises or chain stores are allowed. So, if you're the kind of traveller who has a Big Mac attack when you're away from home, then this unspoiled gem is not for you! However, for the rest of us, there could not be a more romantic spot to enjoy—particularly on America's west coast.

Guernville's Main Street

The townsite is only about four square blocks and all the gay accommodation is located in town or within walking distance from Main Street. This is the hub for coffee shops, shopping, dining and bars, as well as a convenient twenty-four-hour Safeway for your emergency needs at any time (OK, there is *one* exception to the "no chain stores" rule!). For a small community, it offers everything for a perfect gay honeymoon.

In addition, the Armstrong Woods are just a five-minute drive from here and provide nature trails amongst the redwoods—perfect for a day hike and outdoor summer picnic in the shade of the tallest trees you've ever seen. Winding all through the region is the Russian River, with several beaches for summer pleasure; or, if you prefer, a fifteen-minute drive will take you to the rugged west coast and Pacific Ocean. A few hours' drive will give you the most spectacular roller coaster ride as the shoreline highway takes you from sea to sky. The drive is fun but it's the natural vista of rocky coves, white surf, bright blue sky and aqua ocean that will leave you breathless. A two-hour drive along the Sonoma Coast will take you to Sea Ranch for lunch, where the rich and famous from San Francisco spend their summers. If you feel like a special honeymoon treat, then consider a night at the Sea Ranch Lodge or the Timber Cove Inn, perched atop a peninsula where the mountains reach the sea.

Back in Guernville, gay accommodation is available in a wide range of styles and prices. From small B&Bs and cozy motels to private resorts and large estates that lead down to the river, the variety and budget scale is vast. My favourite is the Russian River Resort, which features twenty-three deluxe

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guest rooms, a large swimming pool, sundecks, an intimate bar, piano lounge and excellent restaurant. The atmosphere is friendly and the prices begin at USD$70 per night, depending on the time of year and day of the week. Some of the rooms have wood-burning stoves for that extra touch of romance. Here you'll find locals and tourists spending time together in a comfortable, relaxed setting. If you're travelling with a pet dog then this is the place for you—it is so dog friendly that the snack vending machine includes canine treats! It truly feels like a home away from home.

Located on the river is a very large complex called Fifes Guest Ranch, which claims the title "The Nation's Largest Gay Resort". With fifty country cabins and nearly 100 campsites, a restaurant, bar, pool, sundecks and gym, this is a resort with plenty of action.

Perched high upon a mountaintop, Highlands Resort is a secluded retreat on three wooded acres, a short walk from town. If you're not sure of what you want or can afford, then call the Russian River Concierge, who will help find the right resort or private home for rent to suit your budget and needs.

The nightlife here is convenient, as restaurant and bars are mostly located on Main Street or within a block or two of it. This makes it a breeze to go from dinner to bar-hopping and then home again without any worry of driving or finding a taxi. Walking is a way of life here and soon you'll find yourself enjoying the convenience. The main bars are the Rainbow Cattle Co., Russian River Eagle, Club Fab, and the piano and poolside bars at the Russian River Resort. Each one provides a different atmosphere to suit every couple's pleasure... or singles out to find that special vacation romance.

The Korbel winery

The staff at all the hotels are experts when it comes to the local scene and will provide you with enough information to make you feel at home very quickly in this woodland paradise. Although you need a car to get there and to enjoy the neighbouring countryside, a stroll around town can be invigorating and relaxing as well.

In this unspoiled countryside and gay-friendly town, you and your new spouse can stroll holding hands and truly feel as though you've found Heaven on earth. Mother Nature worked extra hard in this region and (so far) it has remained relatively unspoiled by human intervention. If you decide to investigate all that Russian River has to offer, it will be a vacation filled with memories to last throughout your relationship—not to mention provide a "traditional" start for the rest of your lives together. No matter where you hold your ceremony, this year 'round resort paradise is waiting to provide a perfect getaway for everyone.

Important Information

Russian River Concierge: 1-800-767-1759 or visit www.rrrusa.com

Russian River Resort: (707) 869-0691 or visit www.russianriverresort.com

Fifes Guest Ranch: (707) 869-0656 or e-mail stay@fifes.com

Highlands Resort: (707) 869-0333 or visit www.highlandsresort.com

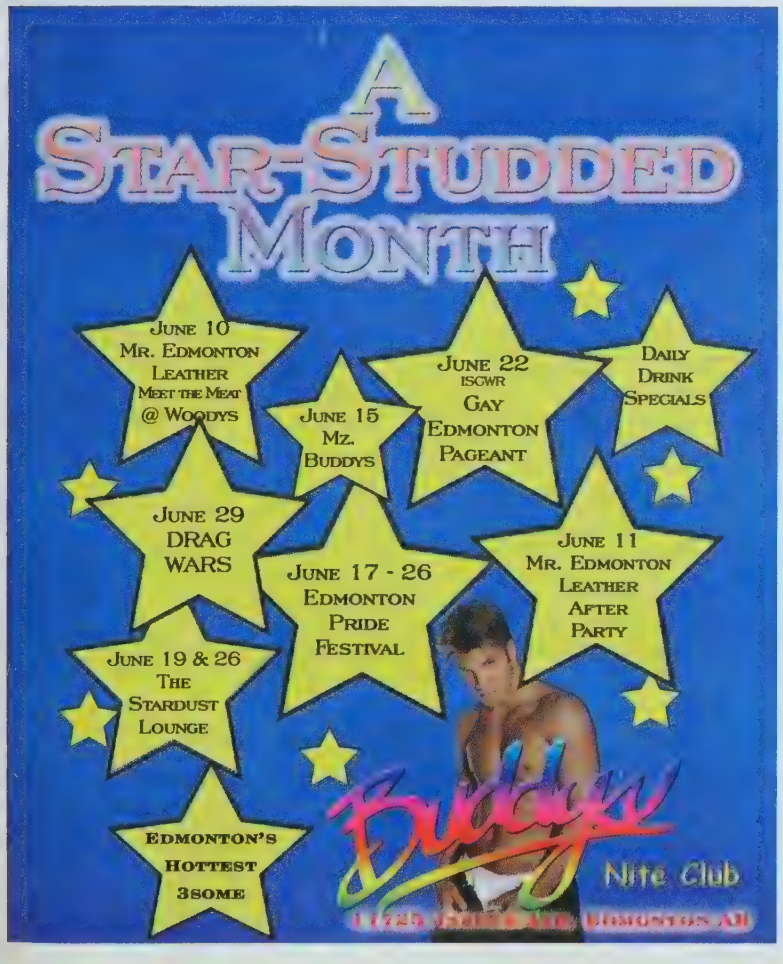
Russian River Getaways: (707) 869-4560 or visit www.rrgetaways.com

Sea Ranch Lodge: (707) 785-2371 or visit www.searanchlodge.com

Timber Cove Inn: (707) 847-3231 or visit www.timbercoveinn.com

Korbel Vineyards: (707) 824-7313

Russian River Vacation Homes: (707) 869-9030 or visit www.riverhomes.com



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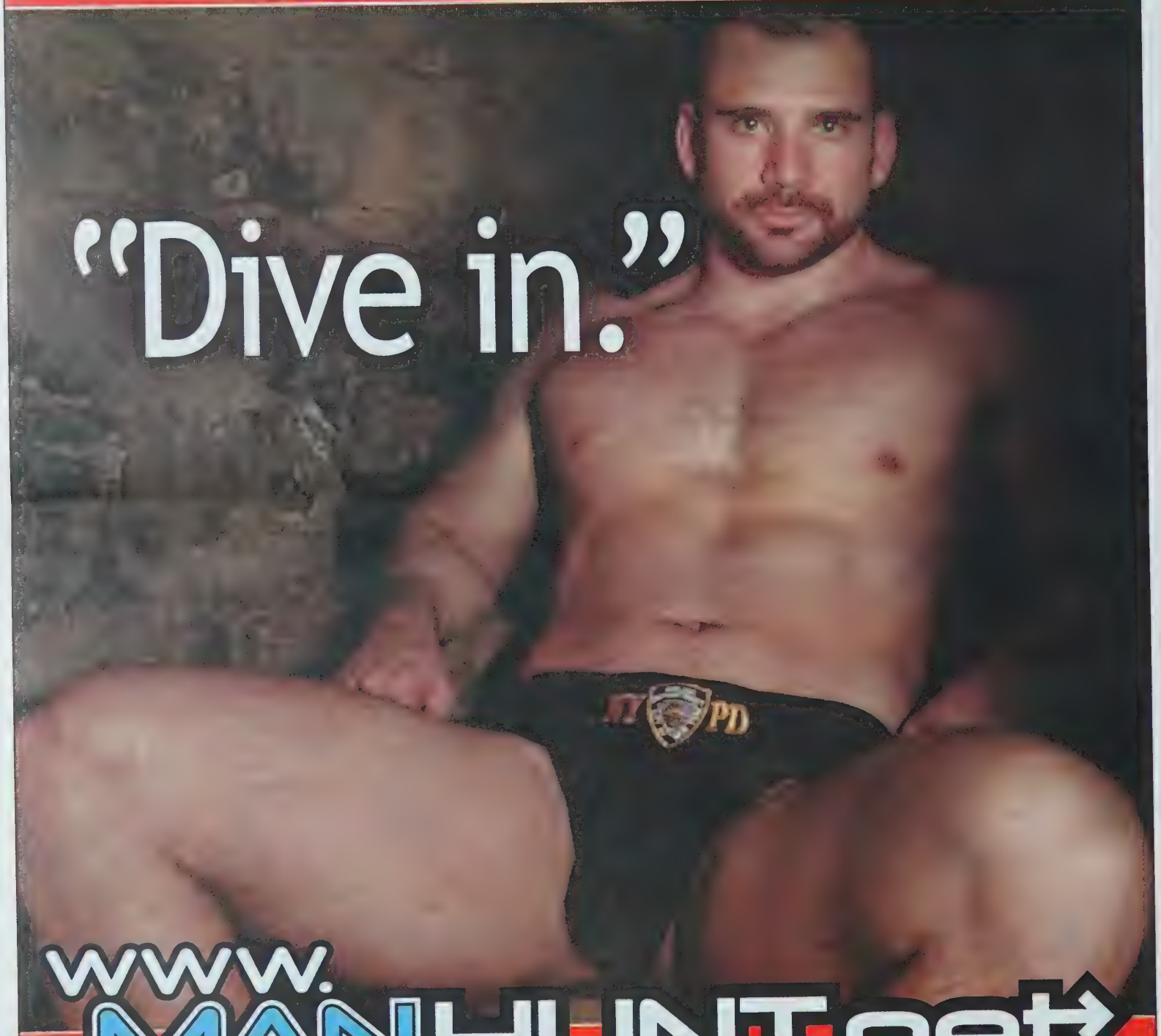

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June is a very special month, as we all know—but what is it about this particular June that's going to make all of our moves seem right on target? Bet on the Pride parade of personal planets trawling through Gemini, Cancer and Leo to lead to new liaisons, new ideas and a few payoffs for all hard work. Uh, have *you* been working hard enough?

ARIES (MARCH 21 - APRIL 20)

Your mind will be ablaze with all sorts of great ideas—that is, until June gets fully underway. Too soon your attention will be drawn to a domestic bag of assorted chores: There will be so much to do and so little time to do it. But don't get *bogged* down while everyone else is *getting* down, gay Ram; it *is* Pride month, after all. Take a walk on the "Wilde" side with a few party hounds.

TAURUS (APRIL 21 - MAY 21)

You may find yourself re-evaluating what is and is not important to you this June... and good thing, too! Queer Bulls are often content to let things lie even when they may not be satisfied with the way things are. I say shake, rattle and roll, sweetheart, as Mercury, Sun and Venus can change your entire perspective. It's time to get Out of your rut and create brand new ones. Need any help?

GEMINI (MAY 22 - JUNE 21)

Pride month will debut with various opportunities for pink Twins to make spectacles of themselves and surround themselves with "A" list talent. However, you'll soon tire of all that attention (yeah, *right!*) and will want to focus more on cashing in on your vast popularity. Think quickly, baby: as the month progresses your best ideas will not have the payoff you expect... And that is just the point!

CANCER (JUNE 22 - JULY 23)

Plan ahead—at least that is what the planets suggest for Pride month. There are so many psychic thoughts swirling that gay Crabs may not be able to focus on either the forest or trees now; before you know it, certain latent and hidden issues will come to a head and you'll find yourself fighting an assortment of brush fires. Remember, you can extinguish *my* brush fire anytime!

LEO (JULY 24 - AUGUST 23)

Compadres will provide the impetus to act rather than wait this June, and proud Lions will be tempted to try anything at least once. Get ready! If you can pace yourself through all the festive activities, you'll finish Pride month with a collection of new friends and opportunities. If you try to do *too* much, you may also find yourself sleeping through the best parts. So what else is new?!

VIRGO (AUGUST 24 - SEPTEMBER 23)

Life is too short to be stuck behind your desk this June—but wait until mid-month before you begin to goof off. In fact, queer Virgins could actually be quite efficient and clear their desks (and their conscience) early on if they put their minds to it. My advice? Focus and *get it done*. Assorted Pride celebrations will soon beckon, so don't burn the midnight oil *working* when you could burn it *playing*!

LIBRA (SEPTEMBER 24 - OCTOBER 23)

Prepare your Pride for a joyful ride this June as you pick up a few passengers along the way. Gay Libras will launch into global ventures, travel or mind-expanding classes now. Gather your rosebuds and make them bloom. More and more you will find that your various bits of information and learning can accumulate into something powerful and propelling. No hot air needed.

SCORPIO (OCTOBER 24 - NOVEMBER 22)

Prepare yourself for a sizzling June, at least until mid-month. Proud Scorps will not be able to contain themselves and will feel the need to connect, converge and consume at many different tasting tables. Explore to your heart's content and tempt indigestion from your spicy international menu. Quite soon you might find yourself partaking of more serious long-term meals instead of light "flight snacks".

SAGITTARIUS (NOVEMBER 23 - DECEMBER 22)

Proud Archers won't be able to think of anything but relationships, whether they currently have one or not, as a posse of planets will stir up their need to connect on a more meaningful level with a certain someone. Just be certain that this someone is The One. Mid-month you'll be apt to jump into it with all four hooves—lasso and ride 'em, cowpoke! Now where did that branding iron go?

CAPRICORN (DECEMBER 23 - JANUARY 20)

Throw off your shackles and enjoy life this June, pink Cap. While you may feel burdened and buried by job tasks and obligations, put yourself first and your own needs ahead of others for a change. The combination of Sun, Venus and Mercury could make you yearn for romance and connection, so call in sick and spend the day in bed. Or in the living room... Or on the roof...!

AQUARIUS (JANUARY 21 - FEBRUARY 19)

June will open up with some love missives, boatloads of fun, crates of creativity and loads of goofing off. But all play and no work can take it out of you, Aqueerius, and achieve nothing of any real value. By mid-month you should concentrate instead on exercise and perfecting your upper and lower deck for cruise season. Swimsuits are optional, as long as you can pull it off...

PISCES (FEBRUARY 20 - MARCH 20)

The rumour has it that you would rather be out and about than tied down and subdued. Well who *wouldn't* now? Tend to any domestic emergency but "back burner" anything that can wait. Pride month is the time for Guppies to escape from the usual and swim in a few new fish bowls—will you swallow the bait? Only if you want to get hooked and reeled in.

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OUTLOOKS' FEATURE INN

The Flags Bed and Breakfast Resort is unique in western Canada—a gay B&B with all the pleasures of a Palm Springs resort. There are many bed and breakfast operations in the Okanagan Valley, but there is only one Flags.

The business is owned and operated by Bryan Wade and Don Karasiuk, a gay couple who have been life partners for over nineteen years. At the Flags, ninety-nine percent of the guests are gay men, although lesbians and gay-friendly straight folk are also welcome. If you're gay, it is a place where you can just be yourself in the company of other kindred spirits. Gay is "normal" here.

The Flags is set amidst fields, orchards and ponderosa pine forests in British Columbia's sunny Okanagan Valley, western Canada's four-season playground. Although it provides its guests all the charm of a secluded country retreat, it is situated only fifteen minutes from the downtown core of Kelowna, one of the region's fastest growing cities.

There are many things to do during your stay at The Flags, whether it's developing a perfect all-over tan by the side of the forty-foot solar-heated swimming pool or warming up in the hot tub after a long day of skiing. Year 'round, the Flags offers a perfect setting for guests to make themselves feel at home away from home. If the weather's inclement—or even if it's not—you can make popcorn at one of our fireplaces, then cuddle with the guy you love in front of the fire. Looking for a bit of light entertainment? Enjoy an *Absolutely Fabulous*-film festival or savour a book from our well-stocked library. Play croquet, billiards, cards or scrabble. Gossip with newfound friends. At the Flags, you're invited to do nothing—with style and panache, of course—if the spirit moves you. The most important thing this quiet retreat can offer is an open invitation for visitors to relax, relax, relax. You've earned it. For more information on the Flags, visit them online at www.the-flags.org

Above left: relaxing by the Flags "clothing optional" pool

Above right: Owners Don Karasiuk and Bryan Wade

Left: Guests enjoying a full breakfast with their hosts

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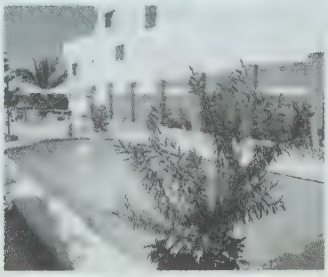

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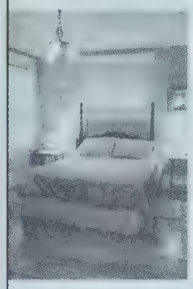

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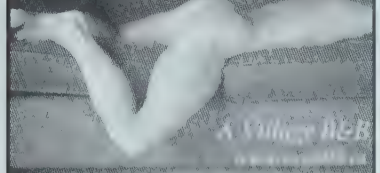

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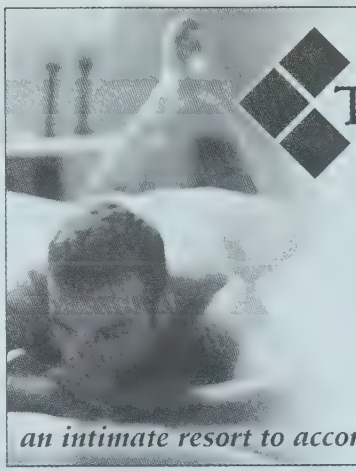

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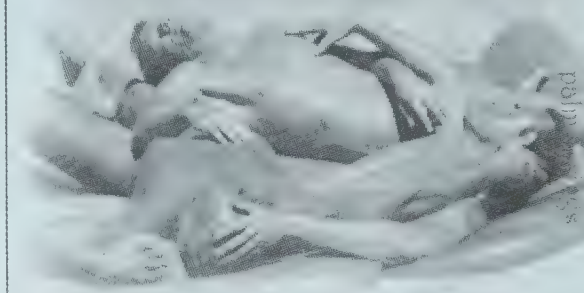

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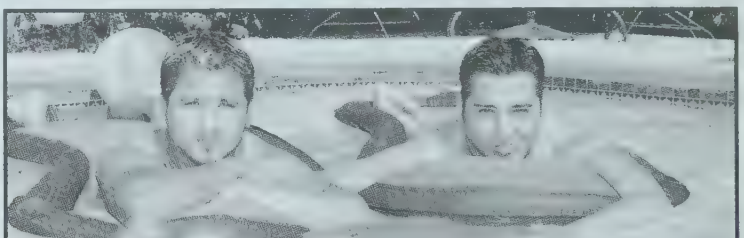

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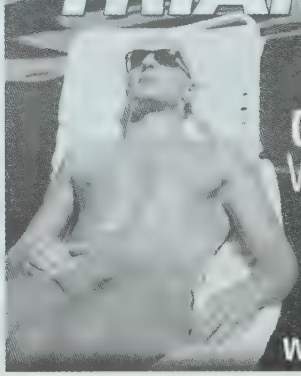

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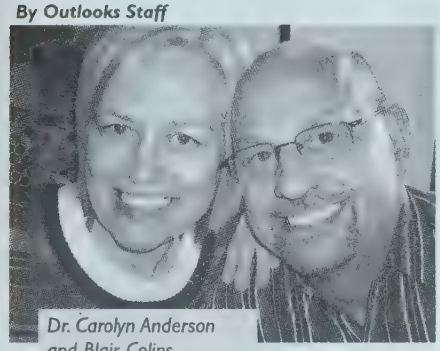

Dr. Carolyn Anderson and Blair Colins

The United Church of Canada is taking another bold step forward in support of same-sex partnership and marriage. The Calgary Presbytery of the United Church has contracted with Dr. Carolyn Anderson and Blair Collins,B.Th., RSW, to provide the first Commitment Preparation Seminars.

Historically, to have a wedding in the United Church, heterosexual couples are encouraged to complete a ten-hour Marriage Preparation workshop in which they are challenged to examine their values and issues around such topics as personal history, readiness to enter a relationship, family of origin, finances, spirituality, sexuality and vision for the future.

For the first time, in August, 2005, seminars designed specifically for same-sex couples will be offered through the United Church of Canada in Calgary. Anderson and Collins will be conducting the seminars and have rewritten parts of the current workshop manual to include issues unique to the GLBT community.

"This is an exciting and historical event in Canada. We have never had anything like this to reflect our lives," says Dr. Anderson. "It is significant that we are beginning be recognized and to see our needs addressed by mainstream and traditional institutions. It is even more significant that it is happening in Alberta. I commend the United Church for their commitment to diversity and their willingness to lead the way on this tumultuous journey."

"This latest development should be no surprise to anyone who has followed the United Church's position on same-sex marriage here in Canada," says Blair Collins, "The United Church of Canada's national website lists the development of the church's position on the issue of same-sex marriage. There it is reported that, as early as 1992, the United Church's General Council not only affirmed same-sex unions, but also recommended that liturgical and pastoral resources be made available to congregations wishing to bless such unions.

"And in 2000, the United Church resolved to advocate for the civil recognition of same-sex partnerships," Blair continues. "Their willingness to develop a same-sex marriage preparation course in keeping with their protocol for heterosexual marriage preparation within the United Church is totally in keeping with their consistent record of supporting equality for the GLBT community."

Betsy Young, MASL, MSW, RSW , Coordinator, Pastoral and Spiritual Care Committee, Calgary Presbytery, United Church of Canada states that "From a pastoral care perspective, it is important that we acknowledge, celebrate and support all of our couples who are declaring their commitment to each other before God and a circle of witnesses. The life-giving love of God is a gift in all its forms."

Two marriage/commitment preparation seminars will be offered by the Calgary Presbytery of the United Church this year and will run Friday evening (6:00-9:00 p.m.) and all-day Saturday on the weekends of August 19th-20 and November 18th-19th. Planning a marriage or commitment ceremony within the United Church is not required for couples to attend these workshops. They will also be present at the Pride Festival to talk about the upcoming seminars and the impending publication of their own manual for individuals and/or couples contemplating entering relationships. As well, both Anderson and Blair will be offering private weekend workshops for couples in the fall.

Stay tuned. ▼

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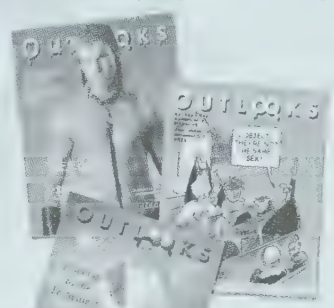

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I am a young man a little over 40 years of age who would very much like to correspond with gay, bisexual or lesbian people from Canada, irrespective of sex or age. My chief interests are writing, reading books, listening to music, watching movies, going for long scenic walks (hiking), travelling, jogging, swimming, flora and fauna and nature in general. I have been hoping and wanting to correspond with people from Canada for years but have so far been quite unsuccessful to find gay pen-pals from that country. I now hope that via *Outlooks* luck will eventually be on my side. Please help me if you can as it would really make me so happy!
Alec Busch
Karpgatan 50
128 32 Skarpnack
Sweden

Young Ghanain Black Cute, 28 years of age. Handsome, honest and serious in life seeks man for long-term relationship. Possible meeting. Please get to know me with your photo.
Emmanuel Dadzie
P.O. Box 1343
Sunyan, B-A
Ghana, W-A

Canadian gays, don't miss this chance! Very nice-looking, 22-year old Ghanian bottom looking for a soul mate. Very serious and looking for a lasting relationship. No age limit, wiling to try anything. First come, first serve. write with photos to
Gibelery Abdul
Democracy Street 250
Box 225
Dormaa-Ahenko B/A
Ghana W/ Africa

Very cute, 30-year-old African guy with nice, attractive, smooth chocolate body. Very caring, romantic, affectionate, honest and kind. Would like to meet a man for a long-term relationship. Age and race are unimportant.
Write to:
Iddrisu Moro
Post Box 96
Sunyani B-A
Ghana, W-A

Gay partners wanted! 24-year-old African (Ghanaian) gay guy, black in colour with black hair. I enjoy hugging, kissing and am serious about finding a partner. Would like to hear from you!
Write: Emmanuel Boateng
Post Office Box 2356
Sunyani B-A
Ghana, W. Africa

Application for gay partners!
I'm a black Ghanaian gay guy, twenty-five years of age, looking for a gay partner. If you are interested please write back. I enjoy hugging and kissing with a serious partner.
Evans Osei Boateng
P.O. Box 299
Nsoatre, B/A
Ghana, West Africa
Also would like to exchange photos, magazines, cards and gifts
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24-year-old young man and Ghanian. Black in colour, 5 feet tall and black hair. I like football, travelling outside my town and country to interesting places like beaches and historical areas like castles
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Kwasi-Antwib F
P0B 1997, Sunyani BA/R, Ghana W/A. Email:
antwi03gh@yahoo.com.uk
Tel: 061-28494

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3 issues: SUBTRACT 10%		_____
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404 dating services

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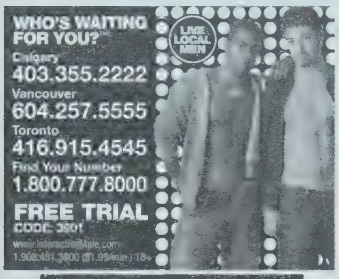

407 general personals

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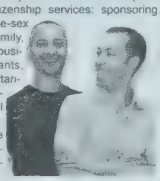

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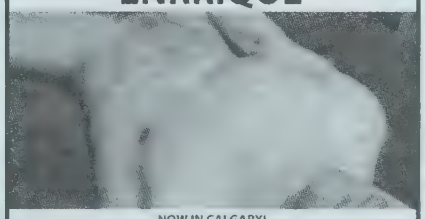

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Buck Naked Boys Club	2028
Camp 181- Women's Social Group	2001
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Gay Teachers and Friends	2019
GLCSA	2052
Integrity	2020
Men's Project	2016
Metropolitan Community Church	2010
Outlooks Millennium Community Foundation	1220
Pride Calgary	2850
Rocky Mountain Cruisers Car Club	2022
SHARP Foundation	2830
Speak Sebastian	2024
Stepping Out	2400
The Verge	2461
AIDS Calgary	2469
Prime Timers Calgary	2474

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Businesses

11 St Lodging	2450
Rainbow Destinations	2092
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The Calgary Eagle	2451
Conference Centre at Country Gardens	2441
Enstasy Counselling Services	2442

EDMONTON
Community Groups

Dignity	2012
GLCCE	2860
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Men's Support Group	2042
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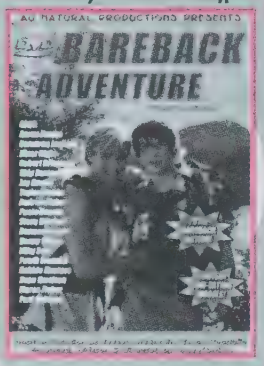
Bareback Adventure

From: Au Natural Productions

Reviews by Outlooks Staff



Featuring: Aaron Hawke, Cameron Jackson, Dinar Right, Robert Driveman, Skip Baxter, Jay Renfro, Taylor Brooks, Andrew Fisher, Paolo Donato, Steve Mitchell, Dawson Brooks, Kenny White, Miky Sem, Patrik Maxwell, Robbie Masters, Sean Harrison, Marco Fisher, Paul Robbins

Running Time: 170 minutes

When two good friends decide to go camping for a summer holiday at Jested Mountain in the Czech Republic, you know that *anything* could happen in this wild setting. This is especially true if those friends are Cameron Jackson and Aaron Hawke, a pair of super-sexy young studs with action on their minds. The only problem seems to be that Aaron has special feelings for Cameron, but he's not sure if his pal feels the same way. For this reason, Aaron has to do his admiring and peeping from afar. Before they leave for the country, Cameron takes a shower and Aaron opens the bathroom door just enough to watch his solo action, which offers Aaron a peek at what might be soon to "come" and setting the tone for their outdoor getaway.

With loaded backpacks, the pair sets off and takes a short train ride into the wilderness. After a hike that takes them further up the mountain, they select a very secluded campsite. Erecting a tent proves to be hot, sweaty work that requires a skinny dip in the lake before they get started. This involves more sexual teasing for Aaron as Cameron reveals his perfect pecs and abs. Once the work is done, the campsite ready and the fire lit, Aaron decides to set off and explore. He soon discovers that they are not alone in the woods and that other hot young men are also enjoying the great outdoors. With his binoculars, not only does he discover some amazing scenery, but also two young studs making out in the tall grass.

Meanwhile, back at the campsite, Cameron is not on his own for very long before a forest ranger spots the campfire and asks if he has a fire permit. Luckily, before Cameron is given a ticket and a fine, he manages to seduce the ranger so that, thanks to a round of great sex, all is forgiven and overlooked.

Aaron's wandering takes him to the campsite of four handsome friends who already have their dinner prepared. They invite him to stay awhile and in no time at all he becomes a bit of fresh meat for their "feast". This party of five knows how to satisfy their appetites, and some of Aaron's lust for Cameron is forgotten.

After many group escapades, Aaron and Cameron finally end up alone in their small tent together, and Aaron finally fulfills his fantasies. With eighteen hot young studs in this story, the action is continuous—shouldn't all summer camping trips be like this one? Check out *Bareback Adventure* and see for yourself.

**Although it is the choice of some,* Outlooks *does not endorse the practice of "barebacking". This review is for entertainment purposes only.*

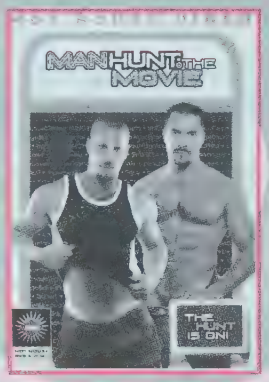
Review sponsored by Express Video
#202 - 11745 Jasper Avenue, Edmonton
(780) 482-7480 Email: exec.express@shaw.ca

RATING: OUT OF FIVE POSSIBLE STARS

MUSIC: ★★★	SET: ★★★★
BODIES: ★★★★★	STORY: ★★★
ACTION SCENES: ★★★★★	

Manhunt the Movie

From: Hot House DVD &Video



Featuring: Dick Wolf, Collin O'Neal, Arpad Miklos, Alex LeMonde, Andy Hunter, Jon Gault, Troy Punk, Owen Hawk, Andrew Rubio, Corbin Michaels, Felipe Canon

Running Time: 110 minutes

When Dick Wolf heads out to his local watering hole in search of some action, he cannot understand why the place is completely empty. The friendly bartender explains that, now that everyone is connecting online, his customers are either at home on their computers or out on a date with their cyber-mate. Being an affable sort, he offers his handsome customer a consolation drink on the house, but it seems that Dick is in a hurry to get home. As he starts to leave, the bartender has one more piece of advice: go to Manhunt.net to connect with other hot guys looking for action.

In no time at all, thanks to Manhunt, we meet "DRILLthisHOLE" chatting with "9x6inUdeep". It appears that 9X6 is at home alone and his roommate isn't expected back for awhile, so he invites DRILL over to play at his house. Together they realize it's a perfect match and 9X6 lives up to his screen name—much to the pleasure of his newfound bottom buddy.

Super-hung porn star Andy Hunter—A.K.A. "GoLarge"—and his partner, "YngHungSF", are online as a twosome called "Two+U" and they're looking for a menage a trois. Not surprisingly, Felipe Carlson (alias "69isFine") is happy to volunteer to be their third party. Andy and his hot young lover Corbin Michaels warm up while they're waiting for Felipe. Andy shows off the fact that he has enough to share with two hot guys and that this threesome is going to shape up to be a real steamy "house party", thanks to their special delivery. Watching these guys, it seems that ordering in really *can* be fun and provide a bit of variety for a couple.

Young hunk Troy Punk is "ToptheAss", chatting with "6pak man", who has ten inches ready for action. Troy gives out his address with the final instructions "Don't even bother knocking—I'll be on the bed ready and waiting." That's an invitation that super-hung Alex LeMonde just can't resist, especially when Troy is only a short walk away. True to his message, Troy is ready and waiting, facedown on the bed. Alex walks in without hesitation and quickly reveals a perfect six-pack, bubble butt and much, *much* more.

Even if the bars are empty, the Internet is full of hot men waiting to hook up. So check out *Manhunt the Movie* to learn the ropes and then Manhunt.net to find that perfect connection—or connections. According to the friendly local bartender, it works for him. And judging by this movie, it works for hot gay adult porn stars in their leisure time, too! According to the producers of this movie, these are actual XXX encounters as told by the hot men who hook up online.

Review sponsored by www.MaleDVD.ca, Canada's largest online XXX gay DVD rental service

RATING: OUT OF FIVE POSSIBLE STARS

MUSIC: ★★★★	SET: ★★★★★
BODIES: ★★★★★(★)	STORY: ★★★★
ACTION SCENES: ★★★★★	

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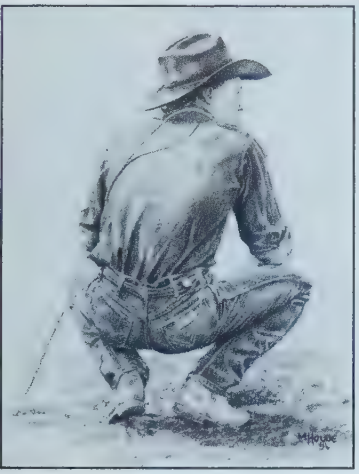
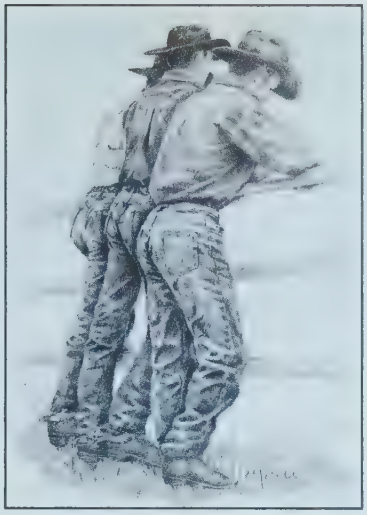


"Calf Roper"

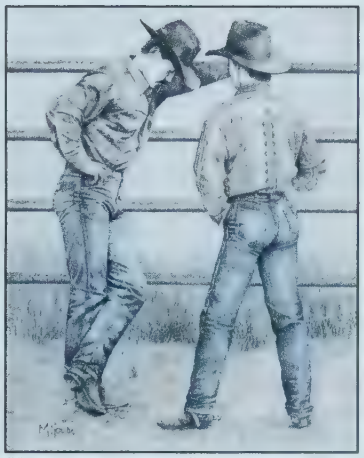


"Gallery 1"

Marc Houde's art appeals to gay men and, in some cases, depicts gay or bisexual men. Having spent all his life in western Canada, Marc developed a special affinity for nature and rural life. After twenty years in banking he decided to pursue his interest in art. Initially, his focus was on wildlife, but more recently Marc has taken to drawing cowboys. As you can see from the examples here, he enjoys depicting his subjects in a realistic manner His drawings are layered, using four to five different weights of pencil, which results in each drawing having a blended, soft look. As in previous years, Marc Houde will be attending the ARGRA rodeo in Calgary again this July. More of of his work can be seen online at **www.geocities.com/saddleupart**.

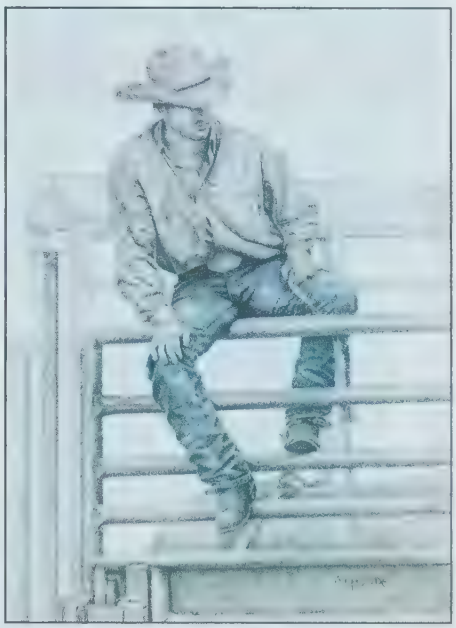
"Roundup"

"Pocket"



"Between Rides"

"Crossed"



"Fencesitter"

"Before the Ride"

OUTLOOKS is proud to bring you this ongoing showcase of artistic talent in Canada's GLBT community. If you would like your work considered for this feature please submit samples to main@outlooks.ca

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HAPPENINGS AND KUDOS
VANCOUVER

Upcoming fundraising events

& Kudos

VANCOUVER – The **BC Persons With AIDS Society** (BCPWA) and **GlaxoSmithKline** in partnership with **Shire Biochem** on Sunday, April 24th, held its 4th Annual ***AccolAIDS Awards*** at Pan Pacific Vancouver. The awards gala honoured the outstanding achievements of individuals and organizations working in the BC AIDS movement. The **$80,000** in proceeds generated from the event will be used to support BCPWA programs and services helping those living with HIV/AIDS.

Winners of the 2005 AccolAIDS Awards are as follows:

ABOVE AND BEYOND — ***WISH*** (Women's Information and Safe House) The ***WISH Drop-in Centre***, in Vancouver's Downtown Eastside, provides Vancouver's most marginalized women with hot meals, clothing, referrals to shelters, and a safe place to rest in a caring, non-judgmental environment.

HEALTH PROMOTION AND HARM REDUCTION — ***Portland Hotel Society*** and ***Vancouver Coastal Health*** for ***InSite***. ***InSite*** is a revolutionary approach to the use of illicit injection drugs and the associated vulnerability to disease. The site offers drug users a clean, safe, and supportive space to prepare and inject drugs.

INNOVATIVE PROGRAMS — ***The Fire Pit*** is a cultural drop-in centre that is helping to address HIV/AIDS among the Aboriginal populations in the Prince George community.

KEVIN BROWN PWA HERO — **Brenda Loyie** was a peer counsellor at ***Positive Living North***. She provided a strong voice for Aboriginal women and for those struggling with addictions. She shared her story with others in the video *Hospital Curtains Are Not Walls*, and served on the Canadian HIV Trials Network's Community Advisory Committee.

PHILANTHROPY (TIE) — ***Chainlink***. Since 1997, a dedicated group of inmates at Mountain Institution, a medium-security federal prison in Agassiz, has provided palliative care, peer counselling, treatment information, and prevention education on the inside.

PHILANTHROPY (TIE) — ***The PumpJack Pub***. Since opening in December 2000 with the goal of providing a comfortable gay neighbourhood pub, the **PumpJack Pub** in Vancouver's West End has become a successful and integral part of the community, and a support to local organizations, sporting teams, and community groups. To date, the pub's fundraising activities have raised over **$30,000** for various organizations.

SCIENCE, RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY — ***The BC Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS*** (BCCfE) is Canada's largest HIV/AIDS research and treatment facility. The Centre develops, conducts, and disseminates comprehensive research and treatment programs in HIV and related diseases.

SERVICE DELIVERY — **Liz James** has worked with the ***BC Centre for Disease Control's Street Nurse Program*** since its inception in 1988. In 1990, Liz teamed with other community members to purchase 400 needles from a sympathetic pharmacist. This was the beginning of the ***DEYAS Needle Exchange*** program.

SOCIAL, POLITICAL AND COMMUNITY ACTION — **James C. Johnstone** has been passionately committed to emceeing and co-leading the ***Vancouver AIDS Candlelight Memorial*** *and* ***Vigil*** for the past sixteen years.

Dr. Peter Centre

Make Me Over By Numbers, at **Numbers Cabaret**, 1042 Davie Street, a Fundraiser for **The Dr. Peter Centre**. ***Start coming out to Numbers now to enter to win the Makeover contest***. You could be selected on Wednesday, **July 13th** to win a complete Makeover from head to toe, body and soul. On **August 17th**, the lucky winner will be revealed for all to see in an elaborate evening. On these special evenings in July and August, all proceeds from the door will go to the **Dr. Peter Centre**. Change is GOOD so let's get to it! Join us at Numbers for your chance to win a whole new you.

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